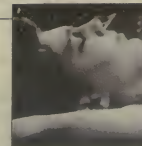


The aftermath of terrorist attacks
A look at some community members
and others who were killed or injured.
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Changes on tap
Castro Theatre to get much-
needed interior renovation.
page 14



Men in trouble
'L.I.E.' depicts the perils
of suburban adolescence.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 38 • 20 September 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



James P. Hennen, Cleveland

SF's Day of Remembrance

Wayne Justiniano, center, was one of the 10,000 people who placed red roses in wreaths in Civic Center Plaza following Monday's Day of Remembrance interfaith service at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium to memorialize the tragedy of September 11. Governor Gray Davis, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Mayor Willie Brown, Board of Supervisors President Tom Amiano, and many religious leaders spoke at the service, calling on Bay Area residents to show tolerance for Arab Americans.

Gay hero on hijacked flight remembered at city service

by Ed Walsh

More evidence is surfacing that a San Francisco gay man, Mark Bingham, may have played a crucial role in keeping hijackers from hitting their intended target believed to be the U.S. Capitol Building or possibly the White House.

Bingham, 31, was on United Airlines Flight 93 from Newark, New Jersey to San Francisco when it crashed in a Pennsylvania field Tuesday morning, September 11.

Friends and family said immediately after hearing news of the crash that they were convinced Bingham would not have given up without a fight. Lyzbeth Glick, the wife of another passenger on the plane, Jeremy Glick, said that her husband told her by cell phone that three or four 6 foot-plus passengers planned to overtake the hijackers. Bingham was 6 feet 5 inches tall and was one of 44 people on board when it crashed.

Glick said her husband decided to go along with a plan to fight the hijackers after she told him that other planes had already crashed into the World Trade Center towers.

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Gay North Bay resident among those killed in NYC attacks

by Ed Walsh

When Keith Bradkowski's phone rang at 11 p.m. on Monday, September 10, it was a pleasant surprise.

It was his partner of 11 years, American Airlines flight attendant Jeffrey Collman, who called home to Novato from Boston where he was on a layover.

"He said how much he loved me and that he couldn't wait until he saw me again," said Bradkowski, 45. "We were going to go away for his 42nd birthday on the 28th."

Collman was on American Airlines Flight 11 when it crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center on September 11.

Collman usually didn't work the Boston-to-Los Angeles route but did it so that he could have some time to take a trip at the end of this month with Bradkowski. Their destination was going to be a surprise. Bradkowski said he learned this week from one of Collman's friends that he planned a

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Jeffrey Collman

After the terror, a rush to thwart anti-Arab backlash

analysis by Katie Szymanski

Aregressive, more hateful America as a result of the recent terrorist attacks is already apparent throughout the country. George W. Bush — who last week called for bloodshed during a church vigil for the dead — has capitalized on the early stages of grief that are propelled by anger and revenge, and the sudden surge in his legitimacy has nurtured a range of discriminatory values disguised as "freedom" and "unity" and other sound bites that could only survive in the present climate of anguish without analysis.

Most Americans, according to a slew of national surveys, want retaliation for the September 11 attacks that caused the violent death of thousands. Even those who actively oppose counter-strikes have acknowledged that an attack of such magnitude with reported links to the Islamic extremist Osama bin Laden will inevitably result in a worldwide conflict. But regardless of the popular opinion for war, a distinction still has yet to be made between terrorists acting against the United States and American residents who do not have white skin, a Christian background, and a house that flies a red, white, and blue flag. To say that anti-Arab sentiment has soared is an understatement. As events in the Bay Area and beyond have shown, nobody is safe from suspicion. And it may be up to the LGBT and progressive communities to take pro-active measures that others can and have dismissed as "unpatriotic."



Faisal Alam of Al-Fatiha

It is predictable enough that Americans — even those who know better — would look to scapegoat a population as an outlet for their anger. Of course, because we live in a white-centric society, even our bigotry has been misplaced over the past several days. In New York City, armed officers still patrol Arab American businesses and Islamic mosques, demonstrating that we equate nationality with religion. In Chappaqua, a suburb of Manhattan and home to Senator Hillary Clinton (D) and former President Bill Clinton, the over-"educated" residents have posted signs around town of a generic Islamic image on a "Wanted" poster. The clip art portrays a man of Middle Eastern descent who wears a turban and appears to be preaching peacefully, but the poster's creators no doubt believe that the cartoon is an exact depiction of Osama bin Laden.

According to CNN, reports of hate crimes against Muslims and southeast Asians have risen exponentially across the United States in the wake of the terrorist attacks. More than 300 incidents of abuse were reported to the Council on American-Islamic Relations from September 11-13. Attacks on Indian Sikhs — who wear turbans and long beards and are therefore "indistinguishable" from Muslims to ignorant American eyes — have included the gunning down of Balbir Singh Sodhi, a former Bay Area resident who was shot outside a gas station in Arizona last weekend; the BB gun attack against a man in New York while he prayed for the victims; and a road rage as-

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Mark Bingham and former partner Paul Holm

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



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1101 O'Farrell at O'Farrell and Franklin next
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Time: Hosted hors d'oeuvres and drinks at 6:00 p.m.
Program from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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Domestic partners bill clears final hurdles

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a landmark vote, the state Senate last week passed a domestic partner benefits bill that would extend to registered domestic partners the same basic legal protections that currently only married different-sex couples now enjoy.

The Senate voted 23 to 11 on Monday, September 10 to approve AB25, described by supporters as the nation's most comprehensive domestic partners bill.

Last Wednesday, September 12, the Assembly took its final vote on AB25 and sent the bill to Governor Gray Davis.

Davis has stated that he will sign AB25 into law; he has until October 14 to sign the legislation.

"The Senate's approval of this comprehensive measure is a real victory for couples and families throughout the state," said Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality. "AB25 is a measure that

endeavors to consider loving and committed relationships regardless of sex or age. They are as valuable and worth protecting equally under the law."

CAPE lobbyist Eric Astacaan noted that last Wednesday's Assembly vote, taken just one day after the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., was "without the usual rancor that accompanies the floor debate on any legislation that affects the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community."

Under AB25, same-sex couples who register as domestic partners with the secretary of state would be able to use sick leave to care for a family member, file disability benefits on behalf of an incapacitated partner, provide partners with employer-based health coverage, make medical decisions in the hospital, act as a conservator, and sue for wrongful death.

The bill also would allow domestic partners to seek damages for negligent infliction of emo-

tional distress, administer a partner's estate, use the statutory will form to bequeath property to a domestic partner, and adopt a partner's child using the stepparent adoption process.

The bill also allows couples to relocate with a domestic partner without losing unemployment benefits and to continue health coverage or surviving domestic partners of retired government workers.

Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), author of the bill, told the *Bay Area Reporter* she expects AB25 to become effective by January 1, 2002.

"We think we will get a signature this year," she said. "It is a tremendously strong bill. It is chock full of real substantial benefits."

Once enacted, the bill would change current law to allow opposite-sex couples to register as domestic partners if one or both of the partners are over the age of 62. Currently, both partners have to be at least 62 years old. ▼

Photos document when world was watching

by Katie Szymanski

The works of various local and national activists and artists are featured in "The Whole World's Watching," a documentary photography and text exhibition that examines the history of peace and social justice social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, on display at the Berkeley Art Center since Sunday, September 16.

Focusing on Northern California where many of these movements were born, photographers and writers have captured the rise of the Black Panthers, free speech and anti-war sentiments, feminism, disability rights, environmental activism, and gay rights. Particular attention has been paid to how all these movements influenced one another, and the natu-

al intersections of the diverse voices of progressive change.

The exhibition presents 100 images taken during these turbulent times by noted photographers, including Harold Adler, George Elfie Ballis, Richard Bermack, Kathryn Biglow, Jeffrey Blankfort, Nacio Jan Brown, Cathy Cade, Jim Dong, Bob Fitch, Paul Fusco, Howard Harowitz, Ilka Hartmann, Paul Herzoff, Robert Hsiang, Chris Huie, John Jakabson, Larry Keenan, Ken Light, Richard Misrach, Helen Nestor, John Pearson, Howard Petrick, Ronald J. Riesterer, Harvey Wilson Richards, Richard Sammons, Stephen Shames, Ted Streshinsky, Michelle Vignes, and Douglas Wichter.

A 160-page catalog with text by noted scholars and activists accompanies the exhibition. Text

contributors include Leon F. Litwack, Charles Wollenberg, Clayborne Carson, William M. Mandel, Jeffrey Lustig, Clark Smith, Alice Sachs Hamburg, Ruth Rosen, Joshua Bloom, Judy Grahn, Donna Amador, Richard Garcia, Edward Castillo, Tommi Avicolli Mecca, Wendy Marian Schlesinger, Hollynn D'Lil, Chris Clarke, Peter Coyote, and Marshall Krause.

Funded by the California Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, the exhibition runs through December 16, and admission is free. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday noon to 5 p.m. The Berkeley Art Center is located at 1275 Walnut Street. For more information, call (510) 644-6893, or visit www.berkeleyart-center.org. ▼

Town hall meeting on state civil union bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

While Governor Gray Davis is expected to sign AB25, a domestic partners bill, Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) is not backing down from pushing state lawmakers to adopt his own civil union legislation.

Koretz is hosting a town hall meeting in Oakland this Monday, September 24, to raise awareness of his bill, AB1338, the California Family Protection Act. His legislation would allow same-sex couples to enter into a Vermont-style civil union in order to obtain all

state-level rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage.

"The two bills are very different but both can be implemented together. AB25 adds to the state's domestic partnership system, while a civil union is more comprehensive than domestic partners," said Teresa Stark, the assemblyman's legislative director. "It is the next best thing to marriage."

Koretz's bill is currently in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. That committee plans to hold two informational hearings in the fall, one in Sacramento and the other in Los Angeles. The dates of those hearings have yet to be determined.

"It is a two-year bill, so if the assemblyman didn't pursue it this year, he still has the opportunity to pursue it in January. It is still viable and open to consideration by the Assembly," explained Stark.

Koretz already held a town hall meeting on the bill in San Diego. In Oakland, he will be joined by local Assembly members Kevin Shelley (D-San Francisco) and Wilma Chan (D-Oakland), who are co-authors of the legislation. In total, 14 legislators have co-au-

thored Koretz's legislation. Representatives from several gay and lesbian organizations are also expected to take part in the meeting, including Stanford School of Law Professor Michael Wald and Sharon Smith, the surviving partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple, and representatives from the California Alliance for Pride and Equality.

Audience members will be able to ask questions of the panel members and obtain specific information on how they can help the civil union legislation become law.

Supporters of the bill will most likely face an uphill battle with next year an election year and the governor in a fight to remain in office.

"It is too early to tell because a lot is going to happen between now and then," said Stark. "The governor has said he supports civil rights for gays and lesbians. We believe this is a civil rights issue and we hope he keeps an open mind." ▼

The town hall meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, September 24 at the Oakland YWCA, 1515 Webster Street.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay men give back only way they're allowed

by Katie Szymanski

In the days after the tragedy of the September 11 terrorist attacks, most Americans wanted to do something to help, and for thousands of do-gooders that meant giving a pint of blood to assist those who had survived. Yet for thousands of others, easily aiding the injured became impossible, not because they were sick or otherwise unable to donate blood, but because they were gay.

The gay blood ban, in effect since the early days of the AIDS crisis in 1985, stipulates that any man who has had sex with a man since 1977 — even once — cannot donate blood. The ban does not factor in a gay donor's HIV status, and does not apply to the most promiscuous and reckless of heterosexuals. It is a situation that proved too much for two local merchants, frustrated by the prohibition against their desire to help.

Enter the "Hayes Valley Day of Hope," to benefit terrorist victims and families, launched by Greg Henson and his partner, Jeff Brooks, the owners of the home

furnishings boutique wOrldware. Taking place this Saturday, September 22, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the San Francisco's Hayes Valley shopping district, the day will include music, shopping, and a chance for consumers to spend money that will make a difference.

"We are 3,000 miles away from New York and Washington and aren't able to donate blood, but we have a successful store and many loyal and generous customers who also want to reach out and help those in need," said wOrldware co-owner Henson. "As we shared our idea with our Hayes Valley neighbors, we found that many other merchants were eager to join our fundraising efforts. We expect a strong turnout for the event and believe that our Hayes Valley Day of Hope will make a difference to the people touched by these tragedies."

Event participants include the restaurant Absinthe; the lingerie boutique Alla Prima; the furnishings store Champ de Mars; the fashion shop Couleurs; the art and jewelry shop F. Dorian Gallery; the floral shop Rose and Radish; the hip footwear store Gimme Shoes; the clothing merchant Manifesto,

and of course, wOrldware, which offers unique furniture and home accessories. All participating shops will donate a percentage of their sales from September 22 to the September 11th Fund, which was established by the United Way and the New York Community Trust to provide immediate and longer-term assistance to the victims, their families, and the communities affected by the tragedy. The United Way and the Community Trust are underwriting all administrative costs, so that 100 percent of all contributions will be used to support relief efforts.

To participate in the Hayes Valley Day of Hope, shoppers can begin at wOrldware, located at 336 Hayes Street (between Franklin and Gough), where a list of all participating businesses will be available. In addition, all Hayes Valley sponsors will be identified by window signs. As political leaders urge us all to pump money into the economy, Saturday's festivities in Hayes Valley provide the perfect way to indulge while benefiting others. A sneak peek at wOrldware's merchandise is available online at www.worldwaresf.com. ▼

Folsom Street Fair will go on as planned

by Katie Szymanski

Leather fetishists and charitable friends, fret not. The Folsom Street Fair, the largest gathering of its kind, will go on as scheduled in spite of the recent turbulent events in this nation.

"We received a few phone calls asking whether the fair would still be happening. A lot of events across the country have been canceled," explained Bob Goldfarb, president of South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyles Events, producers of the fair.

"We just want to make clear that the Folsom activities will proceed as planned."

This year's Folsom Street Fair — "Coming of Age: Folsom Turns 30, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Folsom between 7th and 12th streets.

A moment of silence in honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Enthusiasts around the country should still plan to come out for

the event, which raises money for AIDS and LGBT nonprofits and provides a safe, sane space to express individuality. But those who plan to arrive via air travel should take precautions; although it is probably the safest time to fly, new safety restrictions will be a hassle for those wearing too much metal

sharp instruments in the cabin, and whips and spikes are likely to be confiscated by the airline. Even a cod piece or harness with metal buttons should not be worn unless you're prepared to take it off in a back room. On a recent flight to San Francisco from New York, security agents with metal detector wands

No handcuffs or sharp instruments in the cabin, and whips and spikes are likely to be confiscated by the airline.

or attempting to carry on anything that remotely resembles a weapon.

"Most items, if they're in checked luggage, should not be a problem," said Goldfarb. "Travelers to Folsom should minimize their carry-on luggage. The more you've checked, the less will fall under scrutiny."

That means no handcuffs or

demanding that a passenger remove his hat, studded belt, and steel-toed boots. Dress a little less fabulous, and travel will go smoothly. But once you're in San Francisco, be prepared to show off your best.

"We want people to come out and have a good time," said Goldfarb, "and express themselves as they see fit." ▼

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www.marineland.com

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4pm Kent Marine: www.kentmarine.com

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Cash stolen from bakery

by Jane Warner

Just Desserts, 248 Church Street, September 13, 3:10 p.m.: A man came into the dessert shop while the clerk was helping other customers and walked to the rear of the store. Thinking the man was just going to the patio area, the clerk continued helping other patrons. A short time later, however, the man walked past the clerk and exited the shop without buying anything.

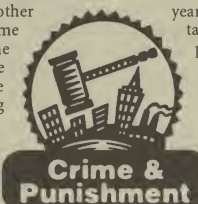
Suspecting something may be wrong, the clerk checked the back of the store and noticed a kitchen cabinet was broken into. Missing from the cabinet was \$275 in various bills. The clerk ran out of the store in time to see the suspect get into a Yellow cab headed westbound on Market.

The alleged thief is described as a white male, 25-30 years old, six feet 2 inches tall, weighing 200 pounds, wearing a white shirt and blue shorts.

Stolen vehicle

100 block of Collingwood, September 13, 4:52 a.m.: A woman de-

livering the morning *San Francisco Chronicle* double parked her car on Collingwood Street and left the engine running. As she walked away to deliver the morning news, a man got into her idling red Nissan Sentra and sped southbound on Collingwood. The woman yelled out for him to stop, but it was too late. The car thief, described as a white male, 25 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 180 pounds, and wearing a dark top, drove the stolen car full of newspapers eastbound on 19th Street. Responding police officers were unable to find the vehicle.



Theft at ATM

Bay View Bank, 443 Castro Street, September 13, 1:10 a.m.: Two police officers passing by the ATMs in their patrol car slammed on the brakes after hearing a man screaming in anguish. The officers ran over to him, thinking he was injured; he told them he was fine, but angry. The man reported that he was making a withdrawal from the machine when he set his wallet and checkbook on the counter next to him. A strange man suddenly appeared, grabbed the wallet and checkbook, and ran south-

bound on Castro.

The thief was described as African American, 25-35 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 145 pounds, with a ponytail, wearing a baseball cap, leather army jacket, and blue jeans.

The man told officers that there wasn't any cash in the wallet, only ID cards. The suspect stole the wallet before the victim finished withdrawing money from the ATM.

Fighting roommates

100 block of Dolores, September 11, 6:35 p.m.: Police responded to a call of two roommates fighting. Upon arrival, officers found two men arguing. Both reported scratches on their arms. One of the men told officers he was scratched by his roommate who also allegedly threw a cigarette and ash tray at him and then assaulted him by hitting him with a burrito. The other man reported that he was scratched as well, and then allegedly pushed into a wall.

Both men gave conflicting accounts of why they were fighting, but declined to press charges against each other. Officers advised the men not to touch one another and both men agreed to settle their argument in a civil manner. A battery report was filed. ▼

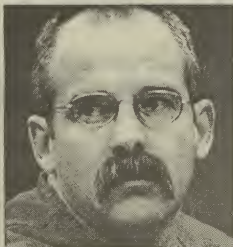
Carmichael granted bail, but needs money

by Cynthia Laird

A judge set bail for gay prison rights activist Brian Carmichael at \$10,000 while he appeals his misdemeanor sentence on a battery conviction, but supporters are having trouble raising the money since it is an appeal bail and the entire amount needs to be raised or sufficient collateral needs to be provided to a bail bond company. At press time, Carmichael remained in jail in the South Bay.

The bail hearing was held last Friday, September 14 in Santa Clara County Superior Court, before Judge Alden E. Danner, who presided over Carmichael's non-jury trial and subsequent sentencing earlier this year.

The case against Carmichael stems from an incident that occurred at San Jose International Airport last September as Carmichael stepped off an airplane. Police were waiting at the airport to talk to Carmichael, who



Brian Carmichael

while on the airplane in Dallas, got into an argument with a passenger who wanted the seat Carmichael had been told was reserved for his severely ill brother.

After Carmichael got off the airplane, police retrieved a bag from the plane containing his brother's medications. Carmichael attempted to open the bag, despite officers telling him not to. During a scuffle that followed, he fell on a police officer, who later reported that he suffered an injury.

In early July, following a lengthy sentencing hearing, Danner reduced Carmichael's felony conviction to a misdemeanor and sentenced him to one year in jail. With time off for good behavior, Carmichael is eligible to be released in early March. Once he was sentenced on the lesser charge, Carmichael decided to appeal the conviction and because of that, he is eligible for bail while the case is on appeal.

Last week, Carmichael's attorneys Dan Mayfield and Linda Starr, argued successfully for bail, though they had wanted it less than the \$10,000 Danner ultimately set. Attorney Starr, who is handling the appeal, noted outside the courtroom that the appeal will likely take several months. ▼

To date Carmichael's legal defense has cost thousands of dollars; supporters can contribute c/o Dan Mayfield, 730 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95112.



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Women's health center hosts BBQ fundraiser

by Matthew S. Bajko

As Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services celebrates its 21st year in operation, the nonprofit is hosting its first "Bar-be-que by the Bay" benefit this Sunday, September 23 at the Log Cabin in the Presidio.

The day includes live music by DEUCE with Rhonda Benin and J. Byrd Hosch and the Kountry Kays, horse shoes, country-western dance lessons, volleyball, beverages, and all the barbecue one can eat.

"This is the first fundraiser that the board has attempted to initiate in some time, at least for the last two years or so," said Doretha Williams-Flournoy, executive director. "It came out of a desire to offer the community something lower in price, a little more relaxed and less elitist, and different from what other organizations are doing. We are women and we wanted the event to be more family-oriented, outdoorsy, and a relaxed environment, so it is a barbecue."

Cooking up the festivities will be honorary co-chairs Roma Guy, Kate Kendell, Audrey Koh, Supervisor Mark Leno, Assemblywoman Carole Migden, and Linda Tillery.

"We are well ahead of projections of fundraising this year. The event is pretty much underwritten and we are expecting to go over

our anticipated numbers. We had hoped for 300 people and have surpassed that already," said Williams-Flournoy. "We are also excited that the community stepped up to the plate to support women in their attempts to access affordable and culturally relevant health care."

Lyon-Martin is also honoring Diane Carr and Felicia Park-Rogers this year for their dedication and work on women's issues. Carr is a nurse practitioner and director of the Department of Public Health's breast and cervical cancer services program. She began working at the San Francisco Women's Health Center in 1974, and in 1978, joined the Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women. In 1987, she helped found the Women's Cancer Network of San Francisco.

"Women in the community are very proud of her and wanted to recognize her for the work she has done in women's health issues," said Williams-Flournoy.

Park-Rogers is executive director at COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere), an international organization that supports sons and daughters of queer parents. She worked for two years in the women's program at the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, San Francisco's LGBTQ youth center, and then worked for three years with homeless youth in transi-

tional living programs in the city. A steering committee member of the National Policy Roundtable, Park-Rogers also is a founder of the Family Policy Working Group.

"This is a visionary award so we wanted that to go to a young woman who has demonstrated visionary leadership in the community and who sort of acts as a beacon in a sense for other young women who aspire to be community activists. Felicia is a very innovative, courageous, and bold young woman who does a lot of work on behalf of LGBTQ families," said Williams-Flournoy.

Established in 1979, Lyon-Martin provides high-quality, affordable, comprehensive health care for women and by women in a safe and nurturing environment. This year, the health provider announced it had served more than 3,000 women since opening its center.

Located at 1748 Market Street, Lyon-Martin caters to lesbians and does special outreach to women of color, low-income women, older women, women with disabilities, and women with AIDS. Over the years, Lyon-Martin has developed from a national leader in lesbian health to become a leader in advocacy for the health concerns of all women.

The barbecue takes place from 2 to 6 p.m. and individual tickets are \$50. For more information, call (415) 864-8523. ▼

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Tread lightly

As the country waits collectively for the expected military response to last week's terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., Americans mostly have demonstrated an outpouring of patriotism, empathy, financial charity, and even blood donations (if they aren't gay, that is). They have rallied around the flag to such an extent that makers of the Stars and Stripes can't keep up with the soaring demand.

But there also has been a steady stream of verbal and physical violence – including some deaths – against Arab-Americans, Muslims, and mistakenly, even Sikhs, whose religion is completely different from the Islamic faith. Across the country, including San Francisco and parts of the Bay Area, people who wear turbans are being singled out as if they are responsible for the horrific September 11 attacks.

Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders know only too well about stereotyping and discrimination. We, too, have been the target of hatred, which manifested itself last week when the Reverend Jerry Falwell stupidly tried to lay blame for the attacks on gays and lesbians and various liberal organizations. As several speakers pointed out at Monday's moving Day of Remembrance in San Francisco, now is the time for tolerance for all people. Many Arab-Americans and other immigrants to this country are just as outraged by the attacks as anyone. While Falwell later issued a half-assed apology, we know that he really believes what he initially said; in that respect, Falwell, Pat Robertson, James Dobson, and other Christian zealots are just as fanatical as the Taliban in Afghanistan. If they could, they would rid this country of the LGBT community and others who don't share their fundamentalist beliefs; and in that respect, they are just as wrong as the extremists who likely are responsible for the hijacking of the four passenger airliners last week.

In addition to the disturbing anti-Arab backlash, there are the increased calls for

broad sweeping powers to combat terrorism. We call on the government to tread lightly in this area, as any change in law enforcement power could adversely affect civil liberties. We often take our freedom for granted in this country and, while many of us don't mind the increased security in airports and at some other public places, Congress must be vigilant in making sure that laws do not undermine the Constitution. Civil liberties groups have good reason to be concerned that the Justice Department's request for so-called roving wiretaps could be used to trample on the Fourth Amendment protections against search and seizure.

Another important area Congress needs

to pay close attention to is immigration. Bilingual same-sex couples already face tremendous obstacles to living together in this country. Gay and lesbian immigration groups already are starting to feel the pinch and bilingual gay and lesbian couples are extremely concerned about possible changes in immigration policy that would make it more difficult or impossible for them to remain together in this country.

America is neither a theocracy nor a dictatorship. We are a democracy founded on free elections, personal freedom, and certain rights. Those freedoms and rights cannot be undermined as the government moves closer to war; otherwise, we will all be hostages to terror. ▼



Editorial



The Illuminati did it?

by Mark Mardon

A conspiracy theory hit my e-mail inbox last week that I want to share with you for your edification. I presume that by now the broadside by sci-fi author David Icke, "Alice in Wonderland and the WTC Disaster" (www.davidicke.com/icke/articles3/worldtradecenter.html), has made the rounds in cyberspace, and you've probably read it and reacted to it. Nonetheless, it deserves a brief reiteration here – if only because you might not otherwise recognize it as science fiction.

According to Icke, the real culprits behind the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are the Illuminati, a global network of reptilian creatures in human form who have as their goal the mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical imprisonment of humankind. They allegedly operate "through every country and within 'terrorist' organizations and those agencies which 'oppose' such terrorism." They have operatives everywhere, and "Saddam Hussein is every bit as much a knowing Illuminati pawn as Father George and Boy George Bush in America."

The thing is, in the broadside itself, Icke never mentions that he's referring to reptilian shapeshifters. You have to discover he's not speaking of actual humans, but of his imaginary creations, by visiting his vanity Web site. What I'm saying is, those who accept ideas on their face, without following up, by default are gullible.

Icke continues his theory: "Bin Laden, deeply misguided as he may be, is no more responsible for what happened this week than I am. His name was introduced with the most obvious coordination immediately after the disaster unfolded in the same way that the background to Lee Harvey Oswald was being circulated BEFORE President Kennedy was even dead."

You get the drift.

No doubt many of us – lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, questioning, and otherwise – can't help bending an ear toward seductive, paranoid views of our current situation. It's natural. And it's dangerous.

War is a time of propaganda and misinformation from all sides, from within and without. It requires of everyone a steady balance and a clarity of thinking. Ultimately, the LGBT community must hang together more tightly than ever if we want to preserve even the modest liberties we have achieved.

Whatever myths or semi-truths or outright lies we choose to believe at this juncture will influence our actions, and we need to act in concert. Unity no longer is just a symbolic value for us without real substance; it's now vital for continuing social and political progress in the face of the horrendous evil that has been unleashed on the world. We will likely see a tremendous backlash that will be blind to fine distinctions like sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, and the like. But we need not be victims. We have proven our mettle, our worth, our pride, and our patriotism many times over in the past 25 years or more. We've more than earned the right to stand tall in these times of terror.

On Tuesday night, September 11, I joined with the men of Inner Journeys, a gay spiritual group, at the Hartford Street Zen Center in the Castro, to meditate, reflect, and let our emotions flow in a safe space. Some men sobbed quietly. Few spoke directly of their anguish. In that somber atmosphere, a quiet strength prevailed. The united peaceful energies of those beautiful gay men gave me a boost. That's the kind of gentle-but-determined spirit we would do well to maintain. Let's all keep faith in one another, and in our country.

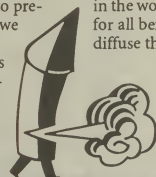
Let's also keep working on ourselves. While external events draw our attention, don't forget to look inward. I especially appreciate the words of Inner Journeys participant Dennis Shanahan, who e-mailed to others that: "We must look in each of our hearts at our own intolerance and realize that every person's individual hatred and intolerance is truly the 'universal fuel' which festers and creates a foundation for violence in the world. Cultivating loving compassion for all beings (including ourselves) helps to diffuse this powder keg."

On the night of the New York horror, gatherings similar to the one I attended took place in churches, synagogues, schools, private homes, and public places everywhere in the Bay Area. Most everyone, I imagine, was feeling a similar anguish. As a result of this shared tragedy, there's a great

psychic need for us to embrace one another, lend mutual support, and rise to a new level of determination in our continuing quest for freedom.

For some time in this city, I have been marveling at how queer culture produces everything from glorious operas to the most subversive (and wickedly fun) raves. We have been enjoying unprecedented liberties. We've never taken any of them for granted, having fought all the battles and bearing all the scars, but perhaps we've let ourselves get sizable love handles of late. It looks like we're going to have to trim up a bit, becoming tighter than ever as a community. We're facing an implacable enemy – fear – but we've overcome it before and parted like hell to rejoice. It's time once again to get sober, to stay united, and prove we're made of good stuff. ▼

Mark Mardon is an assistant editor for the B.A.R.'s arts section.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Proud to be gay, proud to be American

The horrible events since September 11 have changed our lives and priorities as Americans – gay, bi, or straight. Diversity has a new meaning as the terrorists who destroyed innocent lives in New York and Washington did not discriminate in choosing their victims – nobody who was an American was safe.

While my partner and I sat in our living room holding each other watching Tuesday's events unfold in horror and tears, I swelled with pride when I heard that an openly gay passenger from San Francisco, Mark Bingham, may have been among those who fought the terrorists on the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, saving thousands of lives – a true American hero among thousands of heroes. Heroes like police and firefighters who died saving lives. Heroes like office workers and managers who courageously tried to lead their coworkers from the devastation at the World Trade Center. Heroes like the construction workers and regular citizens from all backgrounds who continue to go through the debris to save any life possible. These Americans represent all people from our society – all diverse, civilized, and caring people who make me proud to be an American.

We are now in a war, and while I respect the many voices that are beginning to discuss the consequences in this time of crisis and caution about reckless behavior, I for one do not seek a thoughtless revenge. I seek a well-planned and executed end of terror and intolerance. I want justice for the innocent deaths of my fellow Americans and I want to prevent this hate from spreading and harming anyone else.

I am not happy to see American soldiers – men and women from all backgrounds, and yes even gays and lesbians, despite a wrong-headed and ridiculous policy of discrimination – go to war and die, but I, like many I have spoken to in our shops and coffeehouses and at the beautiful impromptu memorial at the corner of 18th and Castro, understand that this is critical for us to do for our community, for our freedom, and for our future as a nation.

These terrorists are trained and harbored by nations that practice severe oppression against women, gays, free expression and thought. They do not want justice. They do not want diplomatic or negotiated solutions – they want our way of life destroyed.

Our response cannot be timid and unsure. The time for talk has passed. Our community knows firsthand those religious fundamentalists – be they Islamic or Christian as evidenced by the recent hateful comments by Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell – preach only hate. They will never support our fight as a community for social justice and equality if they cannot support the basic American values of freedom and democracy. Terrorists who claim to speak in the name of God or Allah have only one goal – they want us dead.

I am not much of a fighter. I don't even like handling a gun – weapons of destruction send shivers down my spine. But I will be there for my American family in this time of crisis. I will donate money to disaster relief. I will have patience for security personnel at airports and other large gatherings. I will support a president that I did not vote for and a Congress that includes many with whom I disagree, because justice must occur – the evil behind this act must be destroyed and our freedom is worth fighting for. Some from our community will disagree – the freedom that we must fight for allows for that – but I for one am proud to be gay and proud to be an American.

Robert Barnes
San Francisco

And yet, another gay hero

On September 11, 2001, Mark Bingham (a gay man) paid with his life due to an act of terrorism instigated by individuals who profess their actions are sanctioned by their own extremist views. Views that have nothing to do with the Islamic beliefs they claim.

Mark was one of the passengers on United Flight 93, which crashed in a field outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. It is now thought that Flight 93 was intended to destroy the White House or other landmarks within Washington, D.C.

The destructive plans of these terrorists apparently were foiled when the passengers decided that they would react and stop those men by whatever means they could muster.

Mark Bingham was one of the heroes on this flight who paid with his life to stop these terrorists.

As one of the heroes of Flight 93, Mark showed America and the world what so many homosexual men and women have known throughout history – that when called, or placed in the line of fire, we have answered with dignity, courage and even our lives.

Now, with another positive role model in our community, may we all work together and show the world, like Mark Bingham and the other passengers on Flight 93, that we are all here to contribute and help achieve peace and acceptance for all peoples of the world.

Thank you and God bless you Mark Bingham, your former partner Paul Holm, and your incredible, brave family.

Jason Ladd
San Francisco

War is not the answer

It is impossible to say how devastated we were at the events of September 11. Like people around the world, we watched in horror, stunned and outraged. Many of us had friends to check up on and family to find. Those few days after the attack were a blur for most of us.

Now, we are saddened to hear the calls for war, for bombing, for violent attacks against an enemy nobody knows for sure committed these acts. War is not the answer. Violence will only continue the cycle of killings that have plagued our planet for so many years. We ask that those responsible for this horror be brought to swift justice but that our government not add to the body count and the destruction. We implore Americans to consider what war means and how much suffering will be caused to innocent people if we drop bombs. As Gandhi once said, "An eye for an eye only blinds the world."

We also call for an end to the attacks on Arab and Muslim Americans. Let us make this country a hate-free zone by our words and our actions. Let us teach our children that war and hatred are not the way to respond to a disaster such as this.

We must move forward as a country to help build a world in which these horrors are no longer possible. A world that is safe for our children – and for people of all faiths and ethnicities.

War will not build that future. It will only lead to more retaliations, more senseless destruction. Please join us in calling on our national leaders to seek justice without the use of military might.

Kirsten Boyd, Lenore Chinn,
Doug Comstock, Dana C. Crudup,
Steve Davis & Lee Robbins,
Regina & Irene Dick-Endrizzi,
Nanci Gaglio, Robert Haaland, Eileen Hansen,
Barry Hermanson, Richard Labonte,
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Eric Rofes, Sister Bernie Galvin, CDP,
Sister MaryMae Himm, James L. Smith,
Rachel Timoner, Cynthia Wides,
Nancy Welsh and Susan Sternau,
Janice Winchester, Jerry Windley

Proud of community

I'd like to express how proud I am of the gay and lesbian community insofar as respecting the diversity and tolerance of our neighborhood.

There have been no instances reported to me of harassment or intimidation to any Arab American or perceived Arab American business owner in the Upper Market and Castro commercial districts. This is something of which we should all be proud.

Patrick Batt, President
Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

Fly American flag

I propose that we fly a large American flag, along with the rainbow flag, on the pole at Castro and Market.

As queer people, we need to show the world that people like Jerry Falwell can not hijack the title "American." Many of us are veterans or are now serving in the Armed Forces. Whether or not you agree with the current government or its policies, the freedoms we do have as queer people come from this democracy. Our country's flag represents these things. Numerous American flags are flying outside our homes in the Castro neighborhood, but this central location will speak volumes to underscore that we, too, are Americans.

Steve Ferrario
San Francisco

Lowered flag

It was nice to see the rainbow flag at Castro and Market lowered to honor the tragedy victims. I think, however, it would have been a more significant statement if the flag were temporarily replaced with an American one. As hard as it is to be gay in the U.S. sometimes we have to be Americans first, gay second. Always.

Eric Miller
San Francisco

Waving a flag does not a patriot make

Since the tragic and diabolical terrorism perpetrated on our nation, American flags have had a ubiquitous presence. The people who wave these flags think that by doing so that they are showing their pa-

next page ►

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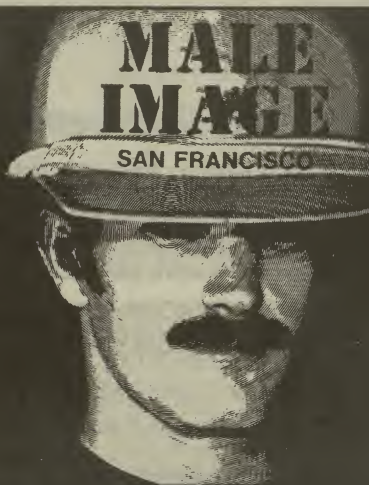
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Mailstrom

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triotism. However, patriotism takes more than waving an American flag during a time of crisis.

True patriotism in my view is something you do every day by helping your nation to be just and fair to all citizens. This takes work, such as being involved in civic and community affairs. This takes being aware of how our government works and how we can make it work for the betterment of not only our country but also all countries throughout the world. This means keeping up with government activities and getting involved in our neighborhood, our community, our workplaces, our local and state governments and ultimately in our national government. How many of those jingoistic flag wavers can really say they are patriots.

Being a citizen of the United States or waving an American flag does not a patriot make.

Denise D'Anne
San Francisco

We need to stand together

In the September 13 *Bay Area Reporter*, Bob Roehr ["Terrorist attacks in New York, Washington,"] notes that the recent terrorist attacks have "affected gay and lesbian Americans as it has their fellow countrymen." While this is certainly reassuring, I would like to add that I, as a transgender and bisexual person, have also been deeply affected, and yet in no way feel included in the language above. This is offensive. In this time of fear and unity, I think we must all stand together, and take great efforts to be inclusive in our language as well as our deeds. We are all, as Americans as well as individuals, at a crossroads; we can choose to stand united and reaffirm our strength in our diversity, or we can choose to fall prey to the hatreds and divisiveness of xenophobia. We can draw strength in standing together, or we can fear and cast out any element that frightens us. Let the *Bay Area Reporter* choose to stand as an example of unity. Please, institute editorial guidelines now that include "transgender and bisexual" in our common language.

Cassie Devereaux
Oakland, California

CNN and Jerry Falwell

Days after the horrific events in New York and Washington, D.C., I, like most Americans, struggle to understand the depth of hate that created these acts and how it is possible that any person of faith could promote, let alone, commit such unspeakable violence.

As I go from channel to channel on the television trying to find any news that might help me make sense of what is happening — I listen to the commentators on CNN cautioning viewers that it is not certain who committed these crimes and that we should remain calm and not lash out against those who live in our country and those who may share the same heritage as the terrorists.

Suddenly, I am stunned. I read at the bottom of the screen: "feminists, abortionists and gays and lesbians are the cause of the terrorist attacks." At first, I can't believe my eyes. Maybe I misread. Was the statement being made from someone in our government? Did the FBI find a note in a terrorist's car explaining why he was going to kill so many people? Who would make such a statement and why did CNN find it credible enough to include it in its "news headlines"?

I wait until that particular "news headline" is shown again on the television screen, and read it in its entirety: "Rev. Jerry Falwell believes that feminists, abortionists, gays and lesbians are the cause of the terrorist attacks."

As a feminist, lesbian, pro-choice woman, I am appalled that a major international news source such as CNN would broadcast Falwell's hateful, destructive pronouncement in the format that it did — a "news headline" — presenting it as just one more "fact" of this American trauma. In this time of heightened sensitivity and need to calm and to unite, it is unthinkable that this rhetoric would be allowed to pass for news.

As a woman of faith who is trying to teach my children the importance of tolerance, I am dumbfounded how a man of God could speak such hurtful untruths. While every reputable religious figure in this country is trying to help us deal with the unspeakable violence that has been committed upon us, Jerry Falwell spews a venom that is no different than that which is being spoken by those who attack Americans in the name of their God.

Our nation's nightmare that started on September 11 is far from over. We will not be able to recover unless we begin understanding that there is something terribly wrong when any American is maligned in the name of anyone's God.

Gerrie Schipske
Long Beach, California

There he goes

Jerry Falwell says that gays and lesbians are responsible for the terrorists' attacks. No, no, no, Jerry. It was the bombing of Pearl Harbor that gays master-

minded. Well, really! Get your facts straight!

Edan Milton Hughes
San Francisco

Remarks from a lost soul

The Reverend Jerry Falwell is a disgrace to the United States of America. On the *700 Club* television program he stated, "I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America. I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'"

No brief apology from Falwell can correct such disgusting remarks. It is clear that he has no real interest in the true culprits of the attacks, but rather wishes to create the kind of hype that will scare the public into prayer and into the ranks of his supporters.

If Falwell really believed in Christianity and love he would denounce the wrongs by the perpetrators and denounce hatred of all kind against people of all walks of life. Instead, however, he remains a man of deep-seated hatred and fear himself, who cares not of the sanctity of life, but rather the security he gropes for in the following he receives from the like-minded lost souls of his followers.

Mark Seeba
San Francisco

A 'disgrace'

The Reverend Jerry Falwell is a disgrace to the United States of America and God. While Jerry points his "God given" finger at his brothers and sisters in blame, let Mr. Falwell realize that this hatred is borne out of various beliefs that the many different religions around this world promote.

Shame on him for taking this opportunity to further spread his own hate in the name of God. I'm sure if he started begging God for forgiveness now, by the time Falwell is picked to meet his maker, his maker may just let him in.

James J. Cassiol
San Francisco

'Monster' has spoken

One of America's great monsters has spoken. An American terrorist, who has caused more deaths than occurred in New York, has taken this time of national grief to promote himself as God's spokesman.

At the onset of the AIDS epidemic the foul-mouthed beast Jerry Falwell and his ilk declared that it was "God's punishment" against homosexuals. The leaders of the country, terrified of the fascist religious right trembled, kept silent, and did nothing. The gay communities acting on their own in what could be called true "Christian" action did rise to the call and finally the world awakened to the horror.

Now the monster has spoken out again, spewing the same type of venomous hate that culminated in the catastrophe in New York.

These so-called Christian leaders are now poised to take advantage at this terrible hour to try to supplant our democracy with a theocracy.

These Hitlerian degenerates must not be allowed to destroy our way of life. We must never forget that what occurred in New York was done in the name of God.

Democracy can tolerate religion, religion cannot tolerate democracy.

Fernando Feliciano
Brisbane, California

Edifices and idiocy

How utterly telling that just before the horrors in New York and Washington, *SF Spectrum* features on its cover a story obsessed with plaster ornamentation.

At the same time, the *Bay Area Reporter*, while able to report some of the tragedies before going to press, features a cover story on the Castro Pottery Barn opening.

Will gay San Francisco's obsession with bric-a-brac and that pathetic match stick, the Fallon Building, never end?

This hideous clash of color and bad architecture has obsessed *SF Spectrum's* editor, no doubt because of its proximity across the street. Yet no stories have exposed the fact of Willie Brown's deliberately delaying the groundbreaking until being properly timed with his re-election.

The decorative obsessions of the committees preserving this useless, and now, not even historically significant building, have delayed the completion of our center, and thereby continued the condition of vapid, uninvolved, disorganized and decentralized gay San Francisco amid these bad times.

With such a supposedly powerful community, how was it that a bric-a-brac corporation was able to invade a gay-central location, while the gay community must be plopped down in a past and future construction zone down the road?

And how many gay papers will take their ads, thus paying for this tchotchke takeover?

Todd Bowers
San Francisco

Attack on America: How did it happen?

by Wayne Friday

As we go into the second week since the terrorist attack on Washington, D.C., and New York City, the two questions that remain are why and how. Obviously, the answer to why is that America and its people have become the scourge of millions in many Arab countries who deeply hate us because of our close friendship and support of the state of Israel. Simply, that is the answer. Those Israel-haters live in countries like Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria, and Libya, to name a few. The countries that are home to such extremist groups as the hateful Islamic Jihad, will never rest until or unless they actually see the total demise of Israel and the support that the United States has given it for the past half century.

How did the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center happen? How did the disciples of Saudi expatriate (and Afghan resident) **Osama bin Laden** so easily hijack the four commercial airliners from three of the country's airports and within a couple of hours manage to inflict such a significant loss of life? The latest reports are that more than 5,000 people in New York City are missing and presumed dead. Hundreds more died in the Pentagon, and many died in the Pennsylvania field where United Flight 93 crashed.

The answer must be that there was a near-total breakdown in this country's intelligence community. Not since Pearl Harbor has there been such a failure of America's security.

After having watched endless hours of television like the rest of San Francisco – indeed, the country – fighting back tears as one heroic story after another came across the screen, and having spent hours trying to contact many friends in New York while waiting helplessly for the days to go by, I can think of nothing to say or write that hasn't already been said.

I must mention New York Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**, however. Like the man or not, he showed the rest of the leaders around the country what a real leader is like.

Last Thursday, I took a walk through the Castro and along Church Street with a San Francisco police officer. We stopped at several small businesses owned and operated by Arab Americans I happen to know – Arab American Christians mostly, but we also spoke with some Muslims. They are suffering just like all other Americans. Is there real anger, indeed, hatred, directed at innocent Arab Americans? Unfortunately, it is a fact. War and death do that to the psyche of all humans.

What can we do for the immediate moment to help? Simple prayer often is the answer for some. Or, you can send a check to the American Red Cross, earmarked for the NYC chapters. Better yet, write a check to Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Earmark it for NYC relief and it will be sent directly to MCC in New York City and used for vic-

tims there. Please do this.

For over 20 years, this column has been about politics; next week I'll go back to political news. And while many of my readers will likely disagree with me, let me tell you what I feel now and what I think America should do in response to the vicious, cowardly attack of last week on Washington, New York City, and the innocent passengers on those hijacked planes. The initial shock and sorrow is beginning to give way now (and I speak of myself personally) to anger. Maybe as I get older anger comes faster and a bit more easily, but I will share with you that this entire horrid, senseless, cowardly act deserves a response. When?

How soon? I don't know, but I truly feel it is time to go after the people who committed this dastardly attack.

If the Central Intelligence Agency is sure of anything, they know that Osama bin Laden is

being protected by the Taliban government in northern Afghanistan, where he is now directing the actions of extremist groups like the Islamic Jihad. He and his followers believe that by becoming martyrs they will only assure that they will end up at the right hand of Allah in what they believe is paradise.

Good people in America and around the world who believe in God ask how a compassionate God could allow such a tragedy as happened last week to occur. I understand that it is the nature of good people, even those deeply religious people, to ask such a question. Given again that many would disagree, I believe that we must go get bin Laden, destroy him, and then ask our compassionate God to show compassion for those who might, unfortunately, be innocently lost in the cause.

More than 5,000 innocent people are missing and presumed dead, hundreds more have been confirmed dead at the hand of this evil zealot and his disciples; a freedom-loving, God-fearing world can settle for nothing less than to rid the world of Osama bin Laden. Retaliation, you say? Perhaps, but then one person's description of retaliation is another person's description for justice.

Last Wednesday, **Leonard Pitts Jr.**, a columnist for the *Miami Herald*, wrote the following; I totally share his sentiments: *It's my job to have something to say.*

They pay me to provide words that help make sense of that which troubles the American soul. But in this moment of airless shock when hot tears sting disbelieving eyes, the only thing I can find to say, the only words that seem to fit, must be addressed to the unknown author of this suffering.

You monster. You beast. You unspeakable bastard.

What lesson did you hope to teach us by your coward's attack on our World Trade Center, our Pentagon, us? What was it you hoped we would learn? Whatever it was, please know that you failed.

Did you want us to respect your cause? You just damned your cause.

Did you want to make us fear?

You just steered our resolve.

Did you want to tear us apart? You just brought us together.

Let me tell you about my people.

We are a vast and quarrelsome family, a family rent by racial, social, political, and class division, but a family nonetheless. We're frivolous, yes, capable of expending tremendous emotional energy on pop cultural minutiae – a singer's revealing dress, a ball team's misfortune, a cartoon mouse. We're wealthy, too, spoiled by the ready availability of trinkets and material goods, and maybe because of that, we walk through life with a certain sense of blithe entitlement. We are fundamentally decent, though – peace-loving and compassionate. We struggle to know the right thing and to do it. And we are, the overwhelming majority of us, people of faith, believers in a just and loving God.

Some people – you, perhaps – think that any or all of this makes us weak. You're mistaken. We are not weak. Indeed, we are strong in ways that cannot be measured by arsenals.

Yes, we're in pain now. We are in mourning and we are in shock. We're still grappling with the unreality of the awful thing you did, still working to make ourselves understand that this isn't a special effect from some Hollywood blockbuster, isn't the plot development from a Tom Clancy novel. Both in terms of the awful scope of their ambition and the probable final death toll, your attacks are likely to go down as the worst acts of terrorism in the history of the United States and, probably, the history of the world. You've bloodied us as we have never been bloodied before.

But there's a gulf of difference between making us bloody and making us fall. This is the lesson Japan was taught to its bitter sorrow the last time anyone hit us this hard, the last time anyone brought us such abrupt and monumental pain. When roused, we are righteous in our outrage, terrible in our force. When provoked by this level of barbarism, we will bear any suffering, pay any cost, go to any length, in the pursuit of justice.

I tell you this without fear of contradiction. I know my people, as you, I think, do not. What I know reassures me. It also causes me to tremble with dread of the future.

In the days to come, there will be recrimination and accusation, fingers pointing to determine whose failure allowed this to happen and what can be done to prevent it from happening again. There will be heightened security, misguided talk of revoking basic freedoms. We'll go forward from this moment sobered, chastened, sad. But determined, too. Unimaginably determined.

You see, the steel in us is not always readily apparent. That aspect of our character is seldom understood by people who don't know us well. On this day, the family's bickering is put on hold.


As Americans we will weep, as Americans we will mourn, and as Americans, we will rise in defense of all that we cherish.

So I ask again: What was it you hoped to teach us? It occurs to me that maybe you just wanted us to know the depths of your hatred. If that's the case, consider the message received. And take this message in exchange: You don't know my people. You don't know what we're capable of. You don't know what you just started.

But you're about to learn. ▼




Our Man Friday



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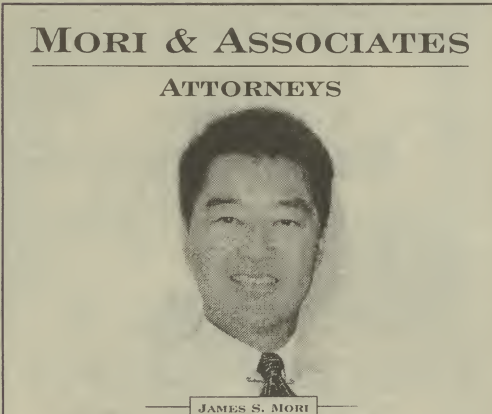


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The inferno and us

by Dale Carpenter

"What kind of people do they
think we are?"

— Winston Churchill
(Speech to the U.S. Congress,
December 26, 1941)

The mind freezes the moment: the plane entering from the right of the television screen; the woman looking out her office window as 5,000 gallons of jet fuel come straight at the 200,000 tons of steel in which she will be entombed; the friends holding hands on the precipice, about to plunge a hundred stories together to escape the flames; the fireman ascending the stairs as the tower descends upon him; the husband hearing the message from the wife whose voice he will not hear again, too late to pick up the line. The next instant 5,000 souls rise like smoke from the ruins.

What did the attackers think they would accomplish?

They hate America's values of liberty, pluralism, and religious tolerance. Perhaps they imagine they'll defeat those values.

We need heroes on a day of infamy. So we surmised the 6 foot 5 inch gay rugby player must have fought the hijackers to death to prevent them from running the board. He made them crash the plane into a deserted Pennsylvania field rather than let them destroy Camp David or the White House or the Capitol, we told ourselves.

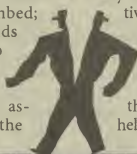
We need someone to grieve for. So we learned, early on, of the purportedly gay chaplain for the New York City Fire Department who was killed while giving last rites to a dying comrade.

We need to share in the country's tragedies. So we heard about the gay co-pilot wrestled from his seat at the control of the plane

that smashed into the Pentagon.

We know hatred because we have been its target. We recognize mangled bodies because we have seen them left limp outside our bars and tied to fence posts. We know what it means to have someone want you dead because God told them that's the way things should be.

Hear Jerry Falwell explain September 11: "I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way — all of them who have tried to secularize America — I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'"



OutRight

Pat Robertson replied, "Amen."

To Falwell and Robertson, the United States is a country of sinners in the hands of an angry God exacting just punishment. On this point they and the jihad agree.

The writer Michael Lind called Falwell's divisive diatribe "moral treason." He is right to suggest the deep immorality of Falwell and his cohorts, but he is wrong to call it treason. Treason is the act of a citizen who understands what he is betraying. Falwell has never understood what America means. He is beneath treason.

What does the "One Christian Nation" chorus think it will accomplish?

They hate America's values of liberty, pluralism, and religious tolerance. Perhaps they imagine they'll defeat those values.

We, by contrast, love and defend this country despite its many failings — despite its military ban and its idiotic adoption policies and its Bible-toting mullahs and all the rest of it — because we know it is alone among nations in its dedication to an idea larger than its petty bigotries. With not much

history to speak of, with no race or ethnicity to bind its people to one another, with no single religion to unify its ambitions, it has only the idea of human freedom to cling to.

What they have never understood, and never will understand, is that that is enough to sustain us.

On TV, commentators talk excitedly about preparations for war. The president's rhetoric escalates from the necessary (we will "round up the folks" involved in this) to the doubtful (we will "end" states that support terrorism) to the extravagant (we will "rid the world of evil").

If there is to be some kind of war it will be like no other we've ever fought. No generals moving battalions across battle maps; no marines landing on the shores of Tripoli; no triumphant ticker-tape parades. We are fighting cells, not armies.

There are hard questions to answer now. Every nation, even Iran, condemns the attacks. But if everybody's on our side, whom do we bomb? How will we know when we've won?

Whatever happens, we know gay Americans will be part of it. "The flag is a bit of bunting to one who insists on prose," said Oliver Wendell Holmes to another generation. "Yet ... its red is our lifeblood, its stars our world, its blue our heaven. It owns our land. At will it throws away our lives."

That has always been as true of gay people in this land as it has been of any other. No Jerry Falwell can separate us from it; no Pat Robertson can deny it.

We are in this with everyone else. We jumped from the towers in desperation. We climbed the stairs to save others. We called our lover in a frenzied last, "I love you." Our souls went up from the rubble. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Honoring life



Singer and legend Teresita la Campesina (Alberta Nevaerez) performed and received a lifetime achievement award at the first "Por Vida" awards event held Sunday, September 16 to benefit the Mission District's Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, a sex-positive, neighborhood-based, multigender Latino/a bisexual, lesbian, transgender, and gay community organization. Three others who were honored included artist Celia Rodriguez, who received the lucha through arte award; Donna Rae Palmer, who received the frontlines of political struggle award; and Carmen Madriz, who received an award for HIV prevention and services work. For more information about PCPV, call (415) 864-7278.

Rick Gerhart

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VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

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Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zert® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)

Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)

Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others

Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)

Halcion® (triazolam)

Versed® (midazolam)

Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital

Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)

Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Liptor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT)

Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zert® (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	---
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	---
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	---
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	---
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	---
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	---
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
>23	>50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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COMMENTARY

Symbolically transgendered

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Because of so many years as a graphic designer, I've always wondered what symbols the transgendered community might design to represent itself.

It sounds a little silly, I'm sure, but I think that such things are a big part of how a community represents its identity and culture. As the transgendered community has grown, I have noticed that many are developing symbols as a way to say "transgendered."

In fact, I am sure that the desire to develop such a symbol goes back to the earliest moments of the transgendered community. Many of the early transgender organizations took the lead, with simple banners and symbols designed in an effort to show people just what we are about.

Way back in the 1970s, the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, or STAR, used a combined male and female symbol — looking like a "male" symbol with a crossbar below the arrow — as part of their logo. This is one of the first examples I've found of a transgender-specific symbol. Other similar symbols have followed, with the "trine" — all three combined around a single circle — seeming to be the only one with any staying power.

That's the one that you see every week in the illustrations that go with these columns. It's also the one that I wear on my lapel on most days. It is, so far, the best one that I've seen to represent "transgender."



Transmissions

Others have tried to use the yin-yang as a symbol of their dual nature, or have opted to use other existing symbols to define their transgendered selves. This is a double-edged sword, of course: while these symbols may fit some aspects of transgender, it can also be difficult to use for such due to its more universal meanings. When I think of a yin-yang, I don't automatically think of transgenderism. I suspect that many reading this don't either.

There have also been a few attempts at transgender flags. Many have been the standard rainbow flags, with additions like triangles with the letter "T" in the middle, or my own attempt to reinstate the pink and blue stripes from the original flag design. Others have opted for their own designs, from the crossed high heel pumps of the "drag flag," to the five-striped (blue, pink, white, pink, blue) transgender flag out of Georgia.

It doesn't surprise me that the transgendered community would want some sort of symbol that says "transgendered." If one takes a look around the larger community, one can spot any number of flags and symbols. Not only is there the standard pride flag, but there are flags specific to bisexuals, bears, and the leather communities, and other symbols from the lambda to the labrys.

All these designs serve a valuable purpose, in my opinion. They serve to define a group, to provide some sort of unifying item that tells others that the bearer is of a like mind — or at least supportive of a cause. Like our nation's flag, or the Wiccan pentagram, they



Christine Smith

help to show others at least a little about the person displaying them.

A well-designed symbol can cross incredible boundaries.

When one looks at the yellow smiley face symbol, it conjures up any number of 1960s and 1970s images and ideas. Not bad for a circle, two dots, and a goofy grin.

Yet so few transgender symbols seem to have gained

widespread popularity. Certainly, none have been as instantly recognizable as a smiley face.

With all these attempts at a design to define the transgendered as a community, one can see how difficult it is to pin down a definitive image for such a diverse group. To simply list the whole of possible transgender identities can fill a sheet of paper, and to try to cover all those possibilities in a single symbol seems nearly impossible, particularly when one considers that many in the community prefer to be less than definable.

In many ways, I could see the transgendered community having to opt for more than one representation. Just as the pride flag speaks to some, while others feel more for the pink triangle or some other design, so may the transgendered community find itself with more than one flag design. For example, the "drag flag," while inventive, isn't likely to be embraced by many female to male transsexuals.

Of course, many transgendered people are still living a closeted life, preferring to keep their transgen-

dered nature a secret. It's unlikely that anyone who is living a "stealth" existence would want to utilize a symbol of transgendered pride.

This may point to another difficulty: in many ways, the transgendered community is still a very nascent undertaking. While unified transgendered groups have been around — in fits and starts — since at least the late 1960s, it is only in the last decade that transgendered people have really begun to band together on a large scale.

Some have argued that the transgendered "Stonewall" came in 1993, over the death of Brandon Teena. There is some wisdom in that, even though I would argue that the transgendered "Stonewall" was in 1969 at a bar in New York City. If the transgendered are where the larger community was in 1977, then we are still largely in an era where our symbols are like the "purple rhinoceros" of mid-1970s Boston-area gay activists. Don't worry if you never heard of that one.

But, if this is the 1977 of the transgendered community, then 1978 is right around the corner. And it was 1978 that the rainbow flag — still one of the most recognizable symbols of gay rights — was designed.

If that is the case, then the best is truly yet to come. ▼

Gwen Smith has gone so far as to design a "Gwen Smith" symbol. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com or in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo."



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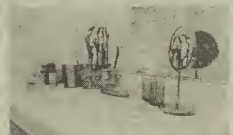


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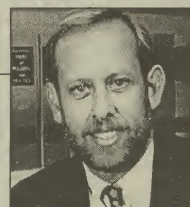
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Castro Theatre to undergo renovations in time for holiday show

by Matthew S. Bajko

Although the Castro Theatre is adored and cherished by the gay community, seeing a flick at the historic movie house isn't the most comfortable two hours.

Springs often pop out of the theater's seats, the stage curtain is in tatters and bathrooms are in need of repairs.

"Nobody can say our seats are really comfortable. They are creaky and squeaky. A lot of people take it as part of the charm of the theater, or they come for the films not for the comfort," said Stacey Wisnia, the theater's manager since last December. She has worked at the theater for more than four years. "It is something that is really important for us. We want people to be comfortable, so it is a lot easier to sit through a long film."

Acknowledging the grand dame of Castro Street is in need of repairs, the Central California Theaters Company Inc. will be closing down the house for two weeks on December 7 to begin restoration work inside the building.

Within 14 days, management plans to put in new seating, install a new curtain, refinish the floors and restore the wooden doors of the theater. The work is expected to be completed in time to open the theater on December 24 for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus' 13th annual holiday production.

"Luckily it is a show we usually sell out despite the seats," said Scott Mandel, the chorus' executive director. "We are thrilled we will be the grand reopening of the Castro Theatre."

Mandel said he has been in contact with theater management about their plans. He said the chorus expects to perform its "Home for the Holidays" productions as scheduled and the chorus is not planning for a change in venue.

"We are going to have faith. We have been reassured they will reopen for us," he said.

As time nears closer to December, and plans become more concrete, Wisnia said the theater will scale back the repairs if it is determined the limited time frame does not allow for all the work to be completed.

"There is no way we are going to cancel the Gay Men's Chorus. The big idea is to reopen with that because it is such a big event for the community. It will be sort of a Christmas or Hanukkah gift to the community," explained Wisnia.

Mysterious foundation

Owners of the theater would not disclose how much the repairs and renovations will cost. They did state that no assistance has come from the Castro Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in May by former PlanetOut CEO Tom Rielly.

Rielly announced at that time that the Castro Foundation had commissioned a feasibility study to restore the theater and was launching a fundraising drive to finance the feasibility project.

While the foundation still



The venerable Castro Theatre will be undergoing interior renovation beginning in early December.

maintains a Web site and phone number, Rielly did not return repeated phone calls or e-mails from the Bay Area Reporter seeking comment on the foundation's work.

Castro Theatre management has distanced itself from the foundation, posting signs in the windows stating Central California Theaters Company is not connected with the nonprofit group.

"We are a for-profit business, and therefore, we are not able to accept money from donations," explained Wisnia.

Roof, tile work

Work on the theater's roof has already been completed without any interruptions to the movie showings. In coming weeks, workers will begin repairing the sidewalk tiles in front of the theater.

Some of the in-laid concrete decorative tiles are broken and chipped, or the grouting between them is missing. The repairs will return the tile work to its original patterns when the theater opened in 1922.

In addition, the theater's sound equipment will be upgraded. The speakers behind the screen will be BI-AMPed to eliminate drop off in sound.

The theater's management is taking pains to maintain the classic look and feel of the building. The owners of the theater have hired San Francisco resident David Boysel to lead the restoration of the theater's murals and research the original color scheme of the building's interior. Boysel was involved with the restoration of Oakland's Paramount Theatre.

"We don't want this to be a museum piece. We want it to be comfortable and functional, but also want some authenticity to the theater," said Wisnia.

While the downstairs seating with be brand new, it will look old. The new seats will still have wooden arm rests and wooden backs curved back similar to the

shape of the older seats, and will be cushioned with a deep maroon colored, plush velvet material.

The sunburst design at the end of the seat rows will also be maintained. However, some modern-day features will adorn the new seats.

"We are actually going to be having cup holders, but not those horrible plastic cup holders. They will really blend in with the armrest," explained Wisnia. "We kind of went back and forth on that because we wanted it to feel like an authentic movie palace. But this would help with comfort for our customers."

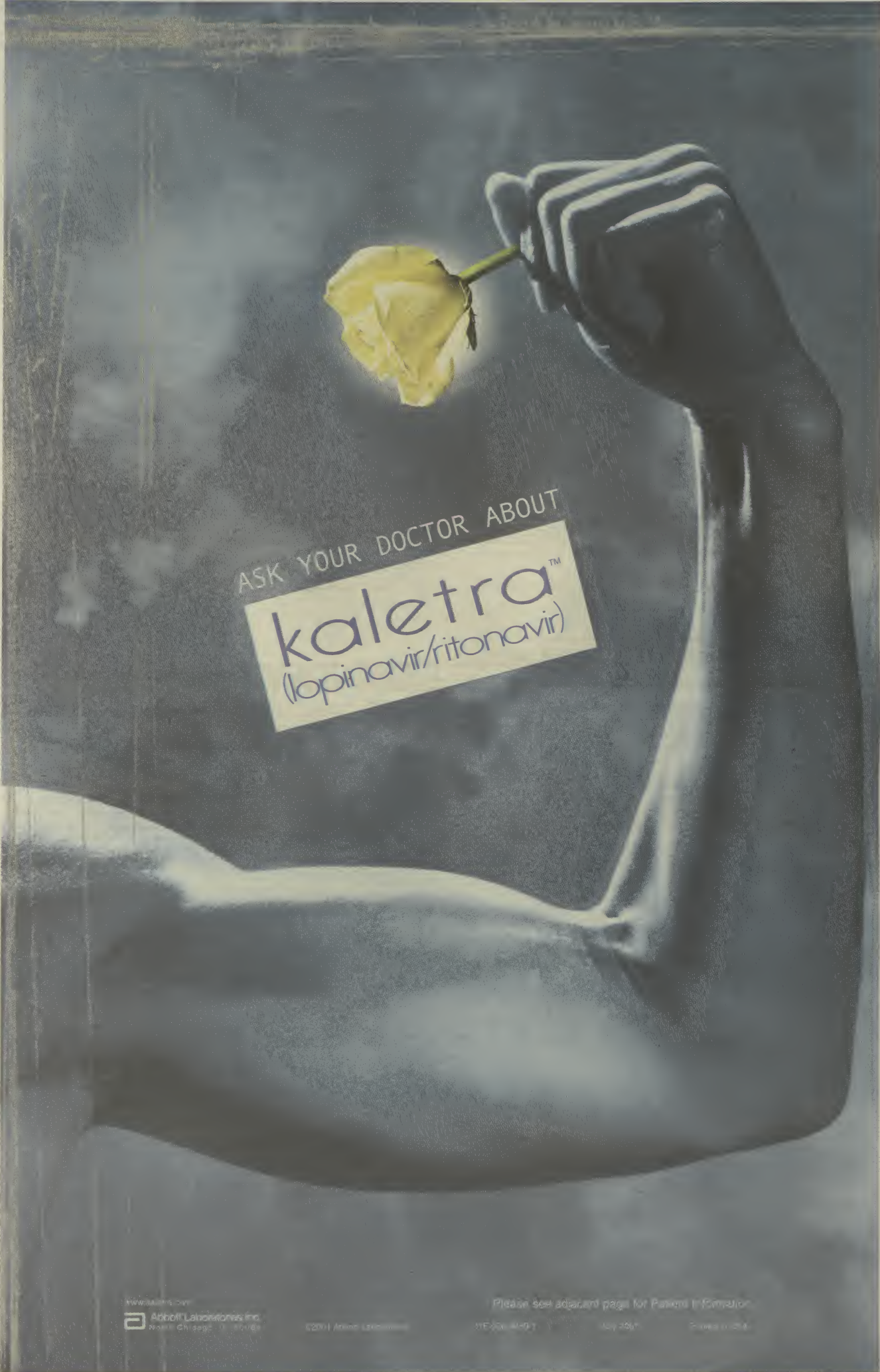
As plans for the restoration and repairs are finalized, management expects to begin other projects after the new year. Those include recarpeting of the entire theater, cleaning the murals, and expanding the bathrooms.

While the theater is designated as a city landmark, the current plans do not merit city inspection because the work will not alter the facade of the building. To inform the public of the December closing, management did announce plans for the upcoming repairs in the theater's newsletter.

However, one resident has asked the city's landmarks board for a more detailed informational meeting to be held. According to city staff, the board is reviewing the request.

Joe Curtin, president of the Castro Area Planning and Action neighborhood group, said he hoped the theater's management does keep the community informed with what they plan to do.


"It's really a very positive magnet, and not another T-shirt shop or fast food store. I would hope they start to consider some long-range planning for how they can maintain the theater over years and decades," said Curtin. "It brings people to the Castro. It is a community treasure and we all are hopeful it will survive and thrive." ▼



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What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

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Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA: Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylethergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others Halcion® (triazolam) Hismanal® (astemizole) Orap® (primidone) Propulsid® (cisapride) Rhythmo® (propafenone) Seldane® (terfenadine) Tambocor™ (flecainide) Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Ritater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St.

John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Elavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking elavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:** Phenobarbital Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others) Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others) These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:** Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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America's 'Taliban'

Fundies lay blame for attacks on gays

by Bob Roehr

The religious fanaticism that killed thousands at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon is not confined to Muslims or to distant lands. America has its homegrown extremists and religious fundamentalists who brazenly displayed their intolerance and disbelief in the fundamental principles upon which our government is founded.

In a breathtakingly stunning display of bigotry, the Reverend Jerry Falwell and televangelist Pat Robertson tried to lay responsibility for the terrorist attack at the feet of gays and political liberals with whom they disagree. It came during the September 13 edition of the *The 700 Club* broadcast on television and cable outlets across the country.

"I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way—all for them who have tried to secularize America—I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen,'" said Falwell.

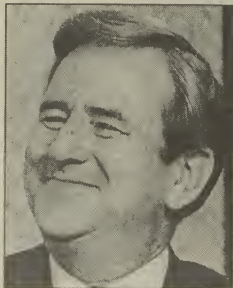
"Well, I totally concur," said Robertson, "and the problem is we have adopted the agenda at the highest levels of our government. And so we're responsible as a free society for what the top people do. And the top people of course, is the court system."

Falwell went on to praise a unified Congress for singing "God Bless America." He continued, "In other words, when the nation is on its knees, the only normal and natural and spiritual thing to do is what we ought to be doing all of the time—calling upon God."

Falwell did not note it, but the song is a relatively recent addition to the pantheon of American musical standards. It was written in 1938 by a secular Russian-Jewish émigré, Irving Berlin.

When pressed by the *Washington Post*, Falwell was unrepentant. He said that he was "making a theological statement, not a legal statement ... [America's] secular and anti-Christian environment left us open to our Lord's [decision] not to protect. When a nation deserts God and expels God from the culture ... the result is not good."

Reactions to the statements were swift. Lorri Jean, executive



Rev. Jerry Falwell

director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said that Falwell's intolerance "has its roots in the same fanaticism" that led the terrorists to launch their attack.

Writing online in Salon.com, news editor Joan Walsh called the pair "America's counterpart to the Taliban. If they had their way, this would be a Christian state. They'd make common cause with the Taliban to strip women of many rights, persecute gays and punish godless infidels. The only silver lining of this tragedy is that it brings out the invidious agenda of the Christian right, where it can be repudiated."

"Don't forget for a moment that the only thing preventing our American fundamentalist Christians from following exactly the same theocratic road here that is being followed in the Middle East is a less fertile cultural and political soil," said Frank Kameny, who many consider to be the father of the modern gay movement.

"They are fully as much moral fascists as are the Taliban, whom they would gladly emulate if they thought that they could get away with it, and whom they will emulate to the extent that they can," he continued.

"To blame blindly, based on prejudice and rage, represents an ominous part of our world and we must work to overcome it wherever we find it," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

"That Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson would exploit this tragedy in an effort to demonize gays and lesbians is irresponsible and sad," said Joan Garry, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "We hope that media outlets will not offer Falwell, Robertson or others like them additional plat-

forms to spread these divisive messages of intolerance."

Others like activist and civil libertarian Bill Dobbs criticized Garry for her implicit call for censorship. He emphasized that this is the very time that we must be most protective of free speech and individual liberties, even if one does not like the message.

But the preachers' message was not sitting well with at least one portion of their conservative constituency. Syndicated talk show host Neal Boortz said the fundamentalists' comments echoed those of Osama bin Laden.

David Scoven, executive director of the gay group Virginians for Justice, said, "In their single-mindedness and self-absorption, they missed the message that true Americans gave in response to the attack: zero tolerance for religious extremists whose lives are devoted to proliferating hate and profiting from it. Jerry Falwell has now exposed himself and his organization clearly to all Americans, and there is no doubt that the backlash from his pathological statements will be overwhelming."

The White House quickly disassociated itself from Falwell's remarks. "The president believes that terrorists are responsible for these acts," said spokesman Ken Lisius. "He does not share those views and believes that those remarks are inappropriate."

"I am proud that the White House immediately disassociated itself from such hateful statements," said acting Episcopal Bishop of Washington Jane Holmes Dixon. "It is beyond shameful to seek to divide us by alleging that some of us are culpable because we hold beliefs different from those of Robertson and Falwell."

Mike Thomas, writing in the *Orlando Sentinel*, a city warned by Robertson in 1998 that flying rainbow flags would cause God to strike them with hurricanes, cited Falwell's remark that God "lifted the curtain of protection" from the U.S. "What does this mean?" asked Thomas. "God chose not to alert the FBI?"

"If God is the terrorist they portray him to be, then Middle Eastern zealots are the least of our worries. But I don't believe in infecting supreme beings with the worst human emotions," he wrote.

Apparently bowing to pressure, and after enduring criticism from all sides, Falwell on Monday issued an apology. ▼

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Gay hero

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Bingham phoned his mother, Alice Hoglan, to say that he loved her and that three men took over the plane claiming they had a bomb. Hoglan said she was certain that her son heroically fought back against the hijackers to prevent a greater tragedy. She said Bingham once wrestled attackers to the ground on a San Francisco street and friends recounted that Bingham participated in the running of the bulls in Spain.

At San Francisco's public remembrance ceremony on Monday, September 17, Bingham was honored along with another Californian, San Ramon resident Tom Burnett. U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D) presented Bingham's former partner of six years, Paul Holm, with a flag that had flown over the Capitol.

"Mark was always my personal hero and now he's a very public hero," said Holm, wiping away tears. "I was convinced as soon as I heard about the tragedy that Mark would be the one on Flight 93 to beat down the terrorists. Anyone who knew him knew that he would be out of his seat in an instant. And I think he represents the finest qualities in Americans. He bravely gave his life for the people in Washington and I will never forget him for that as long as I live."

Holm poignantly spoke of Bingham's character and why he had so many good friends.

"I'd always thought of him as a huge Labrador retriever bounding around through life," he said eliciting laughter from thousands who packed Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. "He was engaging,



San Francisco resident Katherine West adds flowers to the spontaneous memorial at 18th and Castro streets that honors the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

He had an uncanny ability to draw people to him. Someone that met him once could consider him a good friend. And he had hundreds and hundreds of good friends.

"It was Mark's nature to protect the weaker," noted Holm. "He was drawn to people who were vulnerable and was drawn to protect them."

"I would like you to join me in remembering Mark," he said in closing. "The vibrant, gregarious, carefree, full of life, feisty, fun-loving, spirited, humorous, hard working, competitive, kind, playful, smiling, loyal, protective hero to us all. God bless Mark, his family, his friends, us in San Francisco and America." [For more on Mark Bingham, see Sports Complex on page 22.]

Several subsequent speakers

cautioned those gathered not to take their anger out against Arab Americans, Muslims, or others who may look like the suspected terrorists.

"We should not be betrayed by the enemy within, the enemy of bigotry and pointing fingers," said San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano.

"As a community who is no stranger to suffering and death," said MCC-San Francisco pastor Penny Nixon, "we stand in solidarity with all those who have suffered and are suffering and all who have lost lives. And as a community who is no stranger to scapegoating and to hatred of all kinds, we stand in solidarity with all those in our nation and around the world who may be scapegoated or blamed."

The most controversial remarks were undoubtedly made by former San Francisco Supervisor Amos Brown, a Baptist minister, who suggested that the United States may have played a part in encouraging the attack through its foreign policy and by not signing the global warming treaty and by walking out on the recent United Nations racism conference in South Africa.

Holm walked out in protest in the middle of Brown's speech.

"Mark was a hero," Holm told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "If people have thoughts like that, I don't think it was the time to bring them up. It was a celebration of the lives of Americans who lost their lives innocently."

Bingham's friends set up a Web site and a memorial scholarship fund in his honor. They gathered Sunday night, September 16, for a private memorial and say they plan a public memorial soon. Bingham was a member of the San Francisco Fog rugby team. Last Saturday, the team continued with their scheduled practice as a tribute to Bingham.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania) suggested that Flight 93 passengers deserve to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor awarded by the U.S. gov-

ernment, for their heroic efforts. A letter posted on Bingham's memorial Web site to a congressman who represents the Newark, New Jersey area asks that the Newark airport be renamed in honor of Bingham, Burnett, and Glick.

After that letter was written, another hero on Flight 93 surfaced. New Jersey resident, Todd Beamer, 32, told a GTE air phone operator that he and other passengers planned to "jump" one of the hijackers. The last thing he was heard to say was: "Are you guys ready? Let's roll!"

The so-called black boxes containing the flight data and cockpit voice recordings were recovered but they were too damaged for federal officials to get any information from them. They were shipped back to the manufacturer in Seattle, which has had success in retrieving information off damaged flight data devices in the past.

On Tuesday night, September 11, one of Bingham's friends began a makeshift memorial in his honor at 18th and Castro streets. That memorial has since spread far down both sides of the corner and has evolved into a memorial for all victims.

People packed the corner with flowers, candles, photographs, and memorabilia in tribute to the victims. Someone left a black-and-white photo of Mohammed Ali in a boxing ring standing over an opponent that he had apparently just knocked out. "Mark" was written on the picture with an arrow pointed to Ali and the arrow that pointed to Ali's opponent said "hijacker." The photo was captioned: "Thank you, Champ."

The Web site set up in Bingham's memory is: www.Mark-Bingham.org. A public memorial is tentatively planned for 1 p.m. Saturday, September 22, at Bingham's alma mater, the University of California, Berkeley. Details will be posted on the Web site.

Tax-deductible contributions by check should be made out to "Mark Bingham Memorial Fund/CCF" and sent to the California Community Foundation, 445 South Figueroa Street, Suite 3400, Los Angeles, CA 90071-1638. For more information, call (213) 413-4130 or go to www.cal-fund.org. ▼

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Jeff Collman

◀ page 1

trip for them to Italy.

Family and friends say Collman would have done everything possible to keep passengers safe.

"He was the only male flight attendant on the plane," said Bradkowski. "Jeff was one person who wasn't afraid of anything. Jeff would not be a person who would have just sat down. He would have responded in some way."

Collman grew up in Yorkville, Illinois, outside Chicago. His parents still live there.

"He loved his job," his father, Dwayne Collman, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He said they'd have to drag him off of the job to get him out of it."

"He was always somebody dearly loved by all of us," said his aunt, Bryn Collman. "It was the perfect job for him because he loved people and loved to make people happy."

"This was his calling," added Bradkowski. "He had never been happier in his whole life. Everyone who I've ever talked to said he is a person who once they knew him, they changed his life for the better. He was always positive. He would always be leaving people little gifts. He was the most giving per-

son I have ever known in my life. Just incredibly giving."

Bradkowski is a registered nurse. He worked as Marin General Hospital's chief administrative officer and vice president until January and he currently does consulting work.

Bradkowski left for Boston on Saturday at the invitation of American Airlines. The airline has set up a gathering there for family and friends of the victims. Because he often flew the San Francisco-to-Boston route, Collman maintained an apartment in Boston that he shared with other flight attendants.

Bradkowski and Collman wore matching wedding rings. Bradkowski had the grim job this week of describing the ring to a representative of the medical examiner's office to help with the identification of Collman's body when his remains are recovered.

Despite everything, Bradkowski said he doesn't feel angry.

"I just feel just an incredible sense of loss and just a numbness," he said.

A celebration of Collman's life will be held on his birthday, September 28, at 2 p.m. at Fort Heath Park in Winthrop, Massachusetts, near the ocean outside Boston. No services are planned for the Bay Area. ▼

Heroes, survivors from Sept. 11 attacks

by Bob Roehr

Gays and lesbians are everywhere in the terror, tragedy, and determined survival that has gripped America ever since terrorists seized four aircraft on September 11, and forever changed our lives.

Dan Brandhorst, 42, Ron Gamboa, 33, and their adopted son David, 3, were returning to their home in Los Angeles from a vacation on Cape Cod on United Airlines Flight 175 when it slammed into the second World Trade Center tower.

The pair had met 14 years ago in New York and later moved to the West Coast when attorney Brandhorst was transferred by his firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Gamboa managed a Gap store in Santa Monica. They adopted David as an infant and were active in The PopLuck Club for gay dads.

Also on the flight was Graham Berkeley, 37, an Englishman who resided in Boston and worked for the software company Compuware. "He was a wonderful, brilliant, ballsy, British brat, and I mean all of those as compliments," said his friend Andrew Sullivan, who had seen him in Provincetown shortly before the flight.



Courtesy the Fangman family

Bob Fangman

Another gay man on that flight was Bob Fangman, 33, of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Fangman was a United flight attendant. Fangman, formerly of Wilmington, Delaware, had joined United as a flight attendant last November. His family said in a statement that, "We are joining with other families throughout America, in love and prayer, who have lost their loved ones. It is our hope that Bob's life, as well as the lives of everyone involved in this unspeakable terrorist attack, have not been lost in vain, and that our government will take swift and decisive action to ensure that this type of terrorist attack is not repeated."

Father Mychal Judge was chaplain to the New York City Fire Department, though the Franciscan priest was better known as "Father Mike." He was struck and killed by a piece of falling debris from the WTC as he administered last rites to a fallen firefighter.

Gay journalist Andy Humm recalled Judge as "a decent, wonderful human being ... I saw him at many demonstrations for gay and AIDS causes, showing up in his Franciscan monk's cassock."

Pentagon

David Charlebois, 38, was at the controls as the co-pilot of American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757 that took off from Dulles International Airport bound for Los Angeles. It would slam into the Pentagon, just a few miles from his home in Washington, D.C., near Dupont Circle. He is survived by his partner of 14 years, Tom Hay.

Charlebois did not think of himself as an activist, but in many senses he was, as a member of the National Gay Pilot's Association, in being out at work, and fighting for domestic partner benefits for pilots. He shared a sense of community and responsibility in volunteering with the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, a local organization helping LGBT youth.

He had a passion for print-making and collecting, intrigued by the technical processes behind the images. He and Hay doted on their dog, Chance.

Joe Ferguson, 39, was a passenger on that flight. As director of the National Geographic Society's Geography Education Outreach Program, he was accompanying three sixth grade students and three teachers from Washington, D.C. on a field trip the students had won. He lived near Capitol Hill.

Lieutenant General Timothy J. Maude, 53, was at work when Flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon. He was the highest-ranking officer to die. As the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel in recent months, he was responsible for implementing the anti-gay policy "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." "It is a tremendous loss," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Maude met several times with representatives of the organization in putting together the Army's training program to fairly implement DADT, which is superior to the other service branches. "There is no person as good or as knowledgeable on the issue. He is somebody who we considered a friend," said Osburn.

Pennsylvania

United Airlines Flight 93 was bound from Newark, New Jersey,

to San Francisco. It never made it there, but it also never made it to the destination the hijackers had intended, possibly the U.S. Capitol.

Piecing together phone calls made from the aircraft and radar and visual tracking of the plane, it appears that a group of passengers overpowered at least one of the hijackers and they were able to ei-

are keeping a bedside vigil.

Many members of the community are helping to console friends in their grieving and maintain the routine of daily life. Christopher Goeken's work for a New York state senator has taken him into the residential complexes of the war zone that is the southern tip of Manhattan. Elec-

cluding all professional sporting events and most charitable events.

The National Minority AIDS Council canceled the United States Conference on AIDS. Some attendees already had begun advanced travel for the September 13-16 event in Miami, but it quickly became apparent that paralysis of the air transportation system made travel impossible for others.

The Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, citing safety concerns, canceled its September 21-23 "Teaching Respect for All" conference. It had been booked into a hotel just three miles from the Pentagon. The nearby Reagan National Airport, which many of the nearly 1,000 participants would have used, remains closed.

The 41st Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, a leading conference that focuses on AIDS research, has been moved from September 22-25 to December 16-19 in Chicago.

Rocker Melissa Etheridge taped a condolence announcement for MTV. Ellen DeGeneres seems likely to step aside from the role of hosting the rescheduled Emmy Awards as the ceremony drops humor for a more somber approach in light of the attack. ▼

What is different from the grieving of a generation ago is that today many people can openly acknowledge the partners and families that they have lost, no longer having to suppress those ties or the reasons for their sorrow.

ther regain control of the aircraft or force the hijackers to crash the plane short of their objective.

Mark Bingham, 31, was believed to be one of those resistors. The hulking 6 foot 5 inch rugby player was organizing a team for the Gay Games next year in Australia. He had recently opened a New York office of his San Francisco public relations firm.

President Bush praised the passengers on that flight as "those who defied their murderers and prevented others from dying on the ground."

Aftermath

Hundreds of LGBT members of the greater New York community likely are among the estimated 5,000 people still missing and presumed dead. What is different from the grieving of a generation ago is that today many people can openly acknowledge the partners and families that they have lost, no longer having to suppress those ties or the reasons for their sorrow. It does not lessen the loss but it does help in the process of coping with it.

Now there often are organizations to help people through the times of trouble. Some legal protections are in place, blood relatives often are more knowledgeable and accepting, and there is less of a likelihood that the survivor will be thrown out of their home, compounding the personal loss that he or she has suffered.

At a Metropolitan Community Church service in New York on Sunday, one worshipper told of losing a dozen friends in the attack. Among the injured is MCC member Renee Barrett, who remains in a coma with severe burns and lung damage. Multiple skin grafts will be required if and when her condition improves enough to allow those procedures. Her partner, Enez Cooper, and teenage son

tricity and phone service are still out in much of the area, food supplies are running low, and seniors in particular are having a hard time coping with the deprivations and isolation. Even the simple act of refilling a medical prescription is a challenge.

Numerous events across the country were canceled or rescheduled because of the attacks, in-

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Pentagon suspends gay discharges

by Bob Roehr

The Pentagon on Tuesday, September 18 announced that it was suspending discharges, including those of service personnel who are gay or lesbian, as the country prepares for a military response to last week's terrorist attacks.

A spokesman said that gays and lesbians will continue to be allowed to serve in the military as long as they follow the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Advocates of allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military stated that the Pentagon's directive, known as a stop-loss order, is an explicit acknowledgment by the government that gays and lesbians can serve their country.

Prior to the decision by the Pentagon, President Bush had authorized the call up of 50,000 mil-

itary reservists, and the Pentagon began issuing orders for about 35,000 veterans to come back into uniform. The military specialties most in demand are pilots and support personnel to fly patrols over Washington, New York, and other American cities, and intelligence officers and language specialists to try to better understand the terrorist threat.

The DADT policy allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military but it does not allow them to be open and honest about their sexual orientation. Many gays who have decided to make the military a career have learned to live with the policy. Often they discovered or came to terms with being gay only after joining the military.

But many gays who left the service did so because of DADT. Now they are being called back, often after years living as openly gay, and are not inclined to go back

into the closet. That sets the stage for potential conflict and renewed challenges to the flawed policy.

DADT, signed by former President Clinton in 1993, was not law when more than 265,000 members of the National Guard and reserves were called up in 1991 for the Persian Gulf War against Iraq. The position of gays within American society has changed dramatically since then.

The policy was in place in 1999 when a limited number of reservists were mobilized in support of the fighting in Kosovo. Among them was Army Reserve Lieutenant Steve May, a Republican state legislator in Arizona. The Army subsequently sought to kick him out under DADT for statements that he had made earlier during the course of debate in the Legislature. He fought them to a standstill and continued to serve until his commitment was completed.

"I was discharged this summer. Right now they are calling up active reservists, but if there is a broader call up, certainly I could be called up too," said May. "I'm no longer legally obligated to serve but I probably would be in a class of people that they would request that I go back. Every American, gay or straight, is obligated to serve the country in times of great need."

May called DADT "puritanical fascism that prevents qualified, capable men and women from serving their country at a time of great need." He pointed out that every one of America's NATO allies except Turkey allows gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

May encourages gays and lesbians who feel comfortable doing so "to stand up and say, 'I'm gay and I want to serve, because it is

my country too.' If enough people say it, then maybe we will get this law changed." He feels that most commanders are going to accept that and be supportive.

He also sees the potential for both gays and straights to use DADT to evade their obligations. "We had people doing the strangest things to avoid going into the field," he said. One woman reportedly purposefully became pregnant because she did not want to deploy for one month in the desert in California.

When reservists were mobilized for Kosovo the number of calls seeking information and/or assistance from civilian experts on the policy rose to about 100 a day, said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. On a normal day that organization receives about two such inquiries. They are grappling with the simple issue of how to respond to the expected surge in inquiries by gay reservists being recalled to duty.

During the Persian Gulf conflict the Pentagon also issued a stop-loss directive that suspended all separations from the service for the duration of the buildup and hostilities.

Now that the latest directive has been issued, even those in the process of being discharged are likely to be retained in the military. Osburn cautioned service members that they would no longer have the possibility of discharge as a safety valve to escape possible anti-gay harassment within the ranks.

They also "are likely to be cut off from all communication" and alone, especially if shipped overseas, and will have to continue to

do their jobs as soldiers.

Osburn is wary about mounting further legal challenges to DADT during this time of crisis. "The courts would be very deferential to any stop-loss policy" that the Pentagon puts in place. SLDN "started thinking about that last week and is not 100 percent sure" of its strategy under the changed conditions, said Osburn. He acknowledged that "every case is different" and will depend upon a unique set of facts.

One thing that SLDN will attempt to do is document the contributions that gay and lesbian service members make to the struggle against terrorism. Osburn said, "Part of what was not captured during the Persian Gulf War was how many gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans were out there fighting for us."

That information could be used to eventually overturn the law in Congress. Osburn believes that if it came to reversing the law of DADT, it would be "a close call in the Senate," but timing would be important.

May feels that now is not the right time to push Congress to change the law, "but six months from now, when we start taking casualties, we may need to reassess our personnel policies." He hopes that "one of the good things to come out of this tragedy is the end to a law that endangers our national defense."

"I'm certainly ready and willing to serve, to make that sacrifice; I think that all of us have to be," said May. "I think it would be laughable for the service to kick out a single soldier, sailor, airman, or marine because they are gay, at this time of great need." ▼

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Saturday is anti-hate day in Russian River

by Katie Szymanski

Just in time for the national upheaval, a comprehensive event sponsored by Sonoma County's "Hate Stops Here" program will take place this Saturday, September 22 in Guerneville.

Already planned before a recent gay bashing in Guerneville and last week's reign of terror and subsequent anti-Islamic backlash, the "Hate Stops Here" event aims to build coalitions among various

groups throughout Sonoma County.

The day kicks off with an educational forum at the Waterline Beach, 15025 River Road, in Guerneville. From noon to 6 p.m., participants will be entertained with a picnic (bring your own food), raffles, and performances by local talent. Educational speakers represent gay, women's, domestic violence, youth, disabled, and people of color communities.

Next is a "Hate Stops Here" candlelight vigil and march, from

7-8 p.m. The march starts in front of the Russian River Eagle, 16225 Main Street, and seeks to raise community awareness about hate crimes and memorialize and support all victims of such attacks.

The event wraps up with an evening at the Eagle, from 8 p.m. until closing. The bar will feature speakers, entertainment, food, and door prizes.

Everyone is welcome to attend the "Hate Stops Here" event. For more information, call (707) 869-3400. ▼

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The show went on



Organizers of the annual Macy's Passport show debated whether to postpone the fashion event and AIDS fundraiser in the wake of the terrorist attacks, but in the spirit of hope, the gala took place Thursday, September 13, and Friday, September 14 at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Above, fashion models strut their stuff. Several guests were not able to attend, including actress and founding chair Elizabeth Taylor, event chair Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and special guest Reba McEntire. Since 1988, Macy's and American Express have raised more than \$15 million for HIV/AIDS research, prevention, care, and treatment.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Thomas A. Deckwitz

August 27, 1961 — August 11, 2001



great attitude.

His career with the Boeing Company took him to many countries and gave him the opportunity to meet countless people. Thomas' love of travel, combined with his enthusiasm and charm, enabled him to make friends all over the world. Thomas loved an adventure, whether in the tropics, jungle, desert, rodeo grounds, or forest.

Thomas' passions were airplanes, motorcycles, cowboys, and the great outdoors. He pursued them with intelligence, intensity, grace, and stamina. He received two master's degrees from M.I.T., and spoke several languages fluently.

Thomas put everything he had into every day of his life, whether it was hiking, skiing, two-stepping, traveling, riding, or working. As busy as he was, however, he was always truly interested in the lives of those around him. He was always a concerned and caring friend, ready to listen and to help.

We will miss that glorious blond hair and that endearing smile.

Robert J. Denty

ALAMEDA — Bob Denty died September 14, 2001 after a long illness.

Born June 13, 1946 in Oakland, California to the late Bill and Babe Denty, he grew up and lived most of his working life in the Bay Area. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1965 to 1971, when he returned to Oakland. He enjoyed



working in a variety of positions in the 1970s: Lockwood Flower Shop; Oakland Coliseum; Emporium; and Hawaiian Holidays. Bob raced his parents' powerboat "Angela D," successfully taking First

Place Overall for three consecutive years in the Northern California Powerboat Association.

The 1980s found Bob handling reservations at the Hotel York, and tending bar at the Bench & Bar in Oakland, before returning to the flower business he loved. In 1984 he opened Business Is Blooming in San Francisco and Oakland with partner Bob Rawley. He later purchased Lockwood Flower Shop in Oakland. The Cable Car Awards recognized Bob for his frequent contributions and active support of many noted Bay Area charity events. After selling Lockwood, Bob had worked as a limousine driver with Carey Transportation before health considerations forced his retirement in 1997.

A Funeral Mass is being held at 11 a.m. Thursday, September 19, at St. Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church on High Street in Oakland, followed by interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 26320 Mission Blvd., Hayward.

Surviving are his cherished aunt and uncle Barbara and Frank De Biasi, their children, sister Lorraine South, and brother Richard Denty, and his daughter Jennifer Norris. Feeling lost without Bob is his very good friend Rodney Clara. Bob leaves many other cousins and numerous friends to cherish his memory.

Memorials may be made to the Aphasia Center of California, 3996 Lyman Road, Oakland, CA 94602.

Edward Alan Fortier



Ed Fortier died at Davies Hospital from pneumonia due to complications resulting from lymphoma, on September 10, 2001.

Ed was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on April 28, 1942. He worked as a purchasing agent for one company for 24 years prior to moving to his beloved city of San Francisco in 1989.

Ed enjoyed working with his hands and was an excellent handyman. He designed and reconstructed many rooms in his house. Ed was an avid cook and often purchased cookbooks to try new recipes.

Ed worked part time as a house cleaner. He also cleaned a Castro bar, The Men's Room, where he developed a close friendship with Lita Byrd.

During his illness, his close friends Johanna, David and Jerry were of great comfort and importance to him.

His partner of 28 years, Gerry Blunt, two sisters, two sons, and several grand-

children survive Ed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of choice. A remembrance will be held at The Men's Room at a later date.

William R. Lawrence

February 22, 1940 — September 12, 2001



Crosse, Wisconsin and his niece, Lynne Littleman, also of La Crosse. He was born in Wisconsin on February 22, 1940, and had lived in San Francisco for the past 20 years. Billy and Mark were members of the parish of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist.

Billy recently retired from the Bank of America where he was an administrative assistant to an executive vice president.

A requiem mass will be held on October 13 at 10 a.m. at the Episcopal Church of St. John, located on 15th St. at Julian in San Francisco.

Gil Turner

August 8, 1968 — September 3, 2001



Gil Turner passed away in peace on Monday, September 3rd with his loving partner and his best friend at his side. He died of liver failure caused by chronic Hepatitis B and liver cancer.

After receiving his diagnosis in March, Gil spent his remaining time doing what he enjoyed most: gardening, learning, traveling in Europe and to Disneyland, hanging out at home and with his friend, and enjoying San Francisco, the city he loved so much. Gil began his adult life early, graduating from high school at age 16 and living in London twice before turning 21. After a brief stint in Portland, he lived the rest of his life in San Francisco, and the past five years with his partner and their two cats. He loved to learn and to share his knowledge with anyone willing to listen. In recent years, he developed a love for growing orchids and cultivating a garden.

Gil is survived and missed terribly by his partner Ryan Clary, their two cats Ricky and Coquie, and his best friend James McCawley.

Life is a culmination of experiences, not just years. Gil packed a lot of living in his short time on Earth.

Donations in Gil's memory may be made to OrchidMania, P.O. Box 423627, San Francisco, CA 94142-3605.



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Backlash

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sault against a Fairfax, Virginia man who was on his way to donate blood.

From the East Coast to California, in Canada and Europe, Arab Jews have been attacked, white and black Muslims fear for their safety, and people with brown skin or a Middle Eastern background, regardless of their beliefs, have been identified as "evil" because of the acts of religious extremism. Never mind that here at home, thousands have died due to religious extremism that would brand LGBT people as immoral in the eyes of "God."

For LGBT people directly affected by the ignorance, complacency is not an option.

"What has come over our country when we begin to attack our own citizens in the name of revenge?" asked an insightful statement released September 16 by Faisal Alam, 24, founder of the gay Muslim group Al-Fatiha. "When South Asian and Arab taxi cab drivers in New York City and Chicago (who have lived in the United States for more than 20 years) are taken out of their cabs and beaten on the street; when Muslim

teenagers (born in the United States) who wear the hijab (head scarf) are harassed (verbally and physically) in the streets of Tampa, and when Arab and South Asian men working in a convenience store in Northern Virginia are called 'pigs' and 'sand niggers'...

"When our country falls victim to prejudice and discrimination, our so-called civilized and democratic nation begins to fall apart and we lose the very core values that we call 'American.'"

Alam noted that most Americans have failed to look at the broader context for the terrorist attacks – like our military support for "countries around the world that oppress their own citizens and violate the human rights of minorities" – no doubt setting himself up for further discrimination simply by understanding anti-American sentiment. As chat rooms across the country suggest, there is no tolerance for discussion and analysis; anything anti-American is considered insulting to the victims of the tragedy, as if grief and patriotism must go hand in hand. Participants on the New York message board of the Bay Area-born craigslist who do not appreciate America's "freedom" are, ironically, censored by peers and told to "leave the country."

LGBT people will be affected in a variety of ways by the current tone against Arabs and Muslims. With an anti-Islamic sentiment, inherently, is a pro-Christian value system that many citizens equate with nationalism. Homosexual rights and anything else perceived to "divide" the country certainly will not be considered a priority. And as for LGBT immigrants and binational couples, the fight to stay in the United States just got incredibly more difficult.

"We're seeing panic, people whose asylum cases are going forward, who fear deportation, who know that their applications will face far more scrutiny," Pradeep Singla, staff attorney for the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, told the Bay Area Reporter. "The anti-Arab backlash is going to affect people of all nationalities who wish to come here, study here, or stay here with their American citizen partners. Historically whenever there is an anti-immigrant reaction it affects all constituents. And many LGBT immigrants who are fleeing persecution from their home countries will find it much more difficult to find safety. We're cautious; we don't yet know what new regulations will be in place, but there is a real danger that we're

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Team player

by Jim Provenzano

It is believed that team sports build character. Should that team be mostly gay, a special character is built from overcoming adversity.

By now you have hopefully heard the story of 31-year-old Mark Bingham, one of several passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, September 11, the day the World Trade Center and Pentagon were hit by suicide terrorists who used the planes as bombs.

It is believed from phone calls made by Bingham to his mother, and phone calls made by other brave passengers to their loved ones, that after hearing of the other attacks, their plane was headed for either the Capitol or the White House. It's believed that several people, probably all men, dared to rush the terrorists from the herd of passengers at the back of the plane, and prevent whatever else could have happened.

We believe. Our city believed when Bingham's former partner, Paul Holm, described him as "a huge Labrador who embraced life," after being given a folded U.S. flag at a packed ceremony at Bill Graham Auditorium on Monday, September 17.

As acts of violence against Arab Americans and their mosques increase across the U.S., our governor, mayor, senators, religious leaders, and choirs offered statements of peace and justice.

At first the mainstream media stories vaguely revealed that Bingham was gay. It was painful to

watch, having known of Bingham through stories about his rugby team, the SF Fog. Bingham was instrumental in forming the team, which has proven to be an energizing addition to the Bay Area's growing GLBT sports community.

Many friends and team members offered tributes to Bingham on the team's Web site, www.sffog.org.

Bingham, also a college rugby player, is quoted on the team site when they were accepted into the International Rugby Union:

"When I started playing rugby at the age of 16, I always thought that my interest in other guys would be an anathema — completely repulsive to the guys on my team — and to the people I was knocking the shit out of on the other team. I loved the game, but knew I would need to keep my sexuality a secret forever. I feared total rejection."

"As we worked and sweated and ran and talked together this year, I finally felt accepted as a gay man and a rugby player. My two irreconcilable worlds came together."

"Now we've been accepted into the union and the road is going to get harder. We need to work harder. We need to get better. We have the chance to be role models for other gay folks who wanted to play sports, but never felt good enough or strong enough. More importantly, we have the chance to show the other teams in the league that we are as good as they are."

"Gay men weren't always wallflowers waiting on the sideline. We

have the opportunity to let these other athletes know that gay men were around all along — on their Little League teams, in their classes, being their friends."

Acquaintances and rugby players from around the world posted thoughts, including San Francisco teammates like Mike Grant.

"From the get-go, Mark was an inspiration to me," Grant wrote. "I remember wanting so desperately to kick his butt on the rugby pitch after he so easily plowed me over down at Dolores Park. Nice first impression! When we went back for the social he and I hit it off and my need to 'kick his butt' ended immediately."

"Over the course of the next few months I got to know him pretty well and the name 'Bear Trap' fit him so very well. The changes over him in the last nine months were dramatic, I saw him getting more comfortable with himself and his surroundings. As for rugby, well there was no one more spirited, both on and off the field."

At a private memorial service Sunday, September 16, members of The Bingham Group, Mark's public relations firm, as well as members of his rugby team, the SF Fog, consoled and told stories alongside friends and family of Bingham.

The fully unknown story of how the plane went down is clouded by rumors that the military shot down the plane. They have staunchly denied it, and the stories of cell phone calls have received global attention, to the point of being accepted as fact, if not instant myth.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania) said he will nominate Bingham and the other passengers on the plane for the Freedom Medal. This is the same politician who voted against allowing people like Mark to marry their partners.

And while playing up families of Tom Burnett Jr. and Jeremy Glick, other possible Bay Area heroes, the story of Mark Bingham has sometimes been either deleted, truncated, or cloaked.

Dissenting patriots

Gay Americans, banned from the military, harassed in police and fire forces, hidden in sports, forbidden in most cases from even donating blood, are left to question what level of patriotic opportunities are left at the debut of



Mark Bingham

World War III. Even losing a long-time partner to a catastrophe leaves us outside, unable to claim a loved one in hospitals.

Is it any wonder then, that we cling to the thought that a man like Mark Bingham, affable, industrious and yes, patriotic, may have saved our Congress, our White House, and hundreds or even thousands of lives with a stalwart tackle?

We can point a finger to a hero, but can we so quickly point a finger at an enemy? Filmmaker and social critic Michael Moore thinks not.

"When the Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan, the CIA trained Osama bin Laden and his buddies in how to commit acts of terrorism against the Soviet forces. It worked! The Soviets turned and ran. Bin Laden was grateful for what we taught him and thought it might be fun to use those same techniques against us. We abhor terrorism — unless we're the ones doing the terrorizing."

As the media prepares to kowtow to the military obfuscation and vitriol, as our assumed president savors his new role as global John Wayne while his daddy really runs the show, since he proved victorious in the test market version 10 years ago, as the military industry reaps a billion-plus profit from the blood of New Yorkers and Pentagon workers, as innocent Arabs and Muslims prepare to be annihilated while their guilty fanatics cower in caves, as our own fanatics blame gays and the ACLU for the destruction, and as endless stories ignore the fault of the airlines and fret over petty commuter inconveniences, one story may be

forgotten, the story of a gay man among heroes who said, "No."

Don't forget him. Don't dare forget him.

Debris

Another athlete with a large gay fan base would have been among the victims of the Manhattan destruction. If he had not had forgotten his camera at his hotel room Tuesday morning, Olympic gold medalist swimmer Ian Thorpe would have been at the top of one of the World Trade Center towers at the time of the terrorist attacks on Tuesday. The cute Australian had gone back to get his camera, and was still 20 minutes away at the time of the first attack last Tuesday morning.

Blades

Apparently, it is expected that Americans return to the banalities of daily life to avoid, or even prevent, the object of terrorism.

The light-hearted sport/art of figure skating took on solemn proportions at Gay Games V, but it holds nothing but fun for Bay Area skaters this Saturday.

Come join the fun at the annual Gay Skate this Saturday, September 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., in San Francisco. Lace up a pair of ice skates and come have fun skating with your friends, dates, or even future dates. Meet many of the Bay Area figure skaters who are going to the Gay Games VI. Find out more information about the Gay Games, and even register online to participate in any sport at the Gay Games. They'll have a computer set up with a high-speed connection to the Sydney 2002 Web site.

The cost is \$10 at the door, covering admission and skate rental. Virtually all the money collected will be donated to Team San Francisco's Athlete's Assistance Fund. Good music and fun people. Go. Put on a smile and some skates. I dare you.

The Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center is located atop the Moscone Convention Center in Yerba Buena Gardens on the block bordered by Folsom, 3rd, 4th, and Howard streets. Easy access via Muni/BART's Powell Street Station. Call (415) 820-3535 for info. ▼

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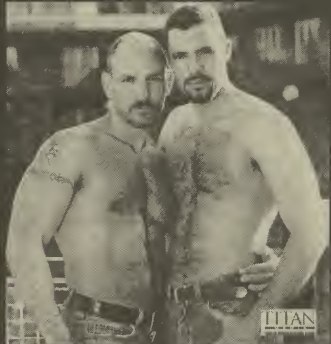
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Classic car display



Byron Meyer showed off his immaculate 1958 Chevrolet Corvette during the FreeWheelers' 18th annual benefit car show held in San Francisco's Collingwood Park Sunday, September 16. Nearly 100 vintage, classic, and muscle cars were on display at the event, which raised funds for Under One Roof. For more information about the club, visit the Web site at www.thefreewheelers.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Elections held in some states

by Bob Roehr

September 11 was not just the day of terrorist bombings, it also was election day in several jurisdictions across the nation with races that had great importance for gays and lesbians.

In Arizona, openly gay Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano faced a recall effort that he claimed was motivated by anti-gay prejudice. While initiators of the recall said it was for a variety of reasons, the effort took off only after Giuliano proposed that city employees be barred from contributing to the Boy Scouts through the United Way Campaign. He later withdrew the proposal.

When the votes were counted, Giuliano had rolled to a 68 percent victory. Exit polling showed that his fellow Republicans gave Giuliano about half their votes while Democrats and independents overwhelmingly supported him.

"We are very excited by the outcome of Neil's election. It was a nasty race," said Brian Bond, executive

director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. "I think that because of his win, he may consider running for a new congressional seat or statewide office, such as secretary of state."

Arizona gains two additional seats in Congress through reapportionment.

Cheryl Jacques was running in a special election to fill a vacancy in the 9th Congressional district of Massachusetts. She garnered 29 percent of the vote in the six-way race but came in second. The progressive vote was split between several candidates and the most conservative Democrat slid in with about 40 percent of the vote cast.

"She ran a good race," said Bond. She was endorsed by the *Boston Globe*. Bond is encouraging Jacques to resume her race for lieutenant governor, a campaign she suspended when the death of Representative Joe Moakley opened up the congressional seat. "She is an investment for our community, she has built name recognition with this campaign, it would be a waste

for her to drop out of the lieutenant governor's race. If she waffles in the press, then everybody else will start getting in."

A fistful of gay candidates won election to city council and school board races in Minneapolis.

In Ohio, Toledo City Council member Louis Escobar survived a primary battle and is in good shape for the November general election.

Elections in New York state were suspended soon after the polls opened, in light of the tragedy. They have been rescheduled for September 25. Six openly gay or lesbian candidates are on the ballot in that state; most are incumbents running for re-election.

The exception is Brad Hoylman, who is running for an open seat in City Council District 1, which includes the World Trade Center. His campaign office is two blocks from ground zero and has been inaccessible. All of the candidates have suspended campaigning. It is not clear if any polling places have been destroyed or rendered unusable. ▼

Tranny Fest art show seeks submissions

by Katie Szymanski

The gender-queer communities are already gearing up for Tranny Fest, San Francisco's annual transgender and transgenre festival scheduled for November 13-18. Always guaranteed to titillate, this year's Tranny Fest brings a new element to the celebration: along with an increased awareness of the younger generation's role in gender visibility will be the first ever visual art show, dedicated to the experiences of trans/queer and questioning youth.

Kids are known for their creativity – legal or otherwise – and

thus Tranny Fest is calling for submissions of photos, graffiti art, drawings, paintings, digital art, and anything else compelling. Whether the work documents gender play in action or is simply a snapshot of daily routines, the art should be relevant to young trans/queer lives. Work will be displayed, appropriately, at the Bearded Lady Café at 485 14th Street, between Guerrero and Valencia, for the entire month of November. An opening reception and party will coincide with Tranny Fest on November 15 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The deadline for art submissions is October 15, and interested participants should contact Al

Austin at (415) 820-3223 or Trannyfest@aol.com. Photographs of work may also be sent to 584 Castro Street, #273, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Tranny Fest, the country's first and only film and cultural festival dedicated to generating positive images of transgendered people, features a variety of performances, panel discussions, shows, and parties. This year's theme is "Gender Armageddon: This IS The Future," and celebrates "the sweet complexities of the transgender experience," according to organizers. More information about Tranny Fest events is available online at www.trannyfest.com. ▼

Backlash

◀ page 21

about to see America turn back the clock on certain advancements."

For Al-Fatih's Alam, the backlash against innocent people is reprehensible.

"We have not learned from our own history and our own legacy. And we refuse to take into account the political context of why terrorism is striking our world today," said Alam, who resides in Washington, D.C. "While we take a stand against terrorism and mourn the loss of the thousands of victims of this terrible tragedy, we must decide today if we will continue the endless cycle of violence and death both in the United States and abroad. Or will we fight for true peace and justice without sacrificing the lives of more innocent people? That is the question that should occupy our minds and hearts today."

A larger response

For those not perceived to be direct targets of reactionary bigotry, complacency is easiest. But a number of groups and individuals are going the more difficult route and calling for justice for Arab and Islamic Americans. Nationwide chapters of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the oldest progressive arm of Christianity, have contacted regional Arab and Islamic groups to offer support, whether in the form of escorting children to school, or simply educating the public. In San Francisco, the Jewish Community Rela-

tions Council issued a statement against "unjustified and irrational backlash" against Americans of Arab descent or Islamic faith.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, the umbrella organization for many hate violence prevention groups, including San Francisco's Community United Against Violence, also issued a statement condemning anti-Arab threats and harassment.

The International Action Center and the Middle East Children's Alliance will sponsor rallies in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. to "mourn the victims, and tell George W. Bush that war and racism are not the answer." The San Francisco rally takes place on Saturday, September 29 in Dolores Park at 11 a.m. Many other anti-war efforts will no doubt include anti-racism messages.

But even for those who are undecided or pro-war, loving and defending America does not have to translate into hating Arab Americans, many of whom are, ironically, very patriotic. There are some simple measures one can take, in addition to flying the flag, to affirm a true commitment to freedom.

Local activist Tommi Avicoli Mecca observed last week that a number of businesses in the Mission neighborhood were beginning to hang signs reaffirming their commitment to a hate-free community and denouncing anti-Arab and anti-Muslim backlash.

"Our community is a hate-free zone" the signs read. "We condemn the increase in anti-Arab and anti-Muslim discrimination, threats, and violence in the wake

of the horrible tragedies in New York and Washington, D.C. We pride ourselves on diversity and respect for people of all races, faiths, and sexual orientations."

As a gay man, Avicoli Mecca has long been comforted by "hate-free" signs in store windows that welcome diversity, and he hopes to see Castro merchants and other LGBT businesses lead by example by hanging the new Arab and Muslim inclusive signs.

"The LGBT community is not immune to racism and ugly thoughts, and I think it might be a good idea to remind people that a hate-free commitment has to apply to everyone," said Avicoli Mecca. "It's the activist in me. I think simple things have an impact on people."

The new hate-free signs, created by the San Francisco-based Global Exchange, can be downloaded at the organization's Web site at www.globalexchange.org under the "September 11" link. Signs can also be obtained via mail by calling (415) 255-7296.

For those who find themselves on the receiving end of harassment, a 24-hour hotline has been established to report hate crimes against American Muslims and Arab Americans residing in the San Francisco Bay Area. The hotline, created by Grassroots Organizers from the Muslim and Arab Community, will provide resources and support to those who have been a target of, or witness to, a hate crime as a result of the recent tragedy. English and Arabic speakers are available at 1-877-282-2288. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251150

The following person(s) are doing business as: Soma Diner, 362 9th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Le Kwak Le and Whion Dieu Kwak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 22, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/22/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251084

The following person(s) are doing business as: Painting Solutions J.N. Company, 575 Eddy Street #203 San Francisco, Ca. 94109-8030. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jorge A. Navarro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/21/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251121

The following person(s) are doing business as: Skin Sense By Kathleen, 2660 Gough Street, Suite #204, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathleen Shapona. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/22/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251091

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hair Touch, 341 Balboa Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kivong Chi Gao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 21, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/21/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251154

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jumbo Seafood Restaurant, 1532 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Eric Zhou, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/23/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250971

The following person(s) are doing business as: Horwath Hospitality Investment Advisors, 116 New Montgomery Street Suite 916, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joel W. Hiser, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/15/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250976

The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. Liel 1389 Haight Street #207, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jerry Yalowitz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/15/2001.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251304

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bwell, 955 Corbett Street #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Toni Lyn Davis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251280

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kids Paradise, 1621 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eleena Kirsanova. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 28, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/28/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 323970

In the Matter of the Application of Wendi Sue Knutson. For change of Name. The application of Wendi Sue Knutson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Wendi Sue Knutson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wendi Knut Stern. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 22nd day of October, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0205533

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Jumbo Seafood Restaurant Located at: 1532 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/19/96.

This business was conducted by: a husband and wife. Kin Bun Lam and Dina Shu Hong Lam.

AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251349

The following person(s) are doing business as: Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Theodore Nasser, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/30/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251365

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flour Girl, Eat My Tortes, 65 Winfield Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Randi Allison Jacobs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/31/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249276

The following person(s) are doing business as: The McCay Company, 723 Haight Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeanie Loette McCay. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/01/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251265

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rad Tech Provider, 1240 - 14th Avenue #303 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shiri Farmand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 28, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/28/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251079

The following person(s) are doing business as: Traditional Therapies, 592 Guerrero Street San Francisco, Ca. 94130. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul L. Reller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/20/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250946

The following person(s) are doing business as: Onshore Holdings, 31 Sillman Street #A, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Demid Potemkin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 14, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/14/2001.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251427

The following person(s) are doing business as: Floors By Ed, 1220 14th Avenue #206, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Edmond Gorka, Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 05, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/05/2001.

SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Wannavro Michael. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 401 Valencia Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Mogannam Maurice Ishaq. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 312 Divisadero Street San Francisco, Ca. 94117. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

SEPT. 13, 20, 27, 2001

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #206

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals or organizations interested in contracting to provide assistance in the implementation of its Family-to-Family Initiative, an Annie E. Casey Foundation supported initiative to restructure the foster care system. Family-to-Family has the goal of shifting resources from institutional and congregate care to family foster care and family-centered services. The Contractor will be responsible for assisting in the formulation of overall implementation strategies; coordinating, facilitating, and documenting the meetings and other efforts of the implementation process and providing reports and recommendations as appropriate.

The contract period will run from 11/1/01 to 4/30/02 for an amount to be determined.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Monday, September 17, 2001. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets will also be available on the internet at <http://civiccenter.ci.sf.ca.us/purchase/pbids.nsf>, click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Monday, September 24, at 9:30 AM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor Conference room, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Friday, October 12, 2001 at 5:00 PM.



STATEMENT FILE NO. 251299

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frantix. 4444 17th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed William Dirk Burns. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION CASE NUMBER: DA67767

City & County of San Francisco v. Pernal V. Roberts upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by Antoinette Suell, and it is satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Pernal V. Roberts cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or defendant, respondent, or citee and that the said defendant, respondent, or citee is a necessary and proper party to the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of ... Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in Bay Area Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco, California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant, that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication. Filed 09/07/01.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251296

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rogue Art Space. 4560 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Kevin M. Grady and Mark S. Rubnitz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/29/2001.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251353

The following person(s) are doing business as: MusicResources USA, Corvette Club Of San Francisco. 1175 Ellis Street, Apt. C309, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terryl S. Smith, pres. CEO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 30, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/30/2001.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0202440

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Takarajima. Located at: 633 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 01, 1996. This business was conducted by: a Individual: Shigeko Ichikawa.
SEPT. 13, 20, 27, OCT. 4, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324030

In the Matter of the Application of Phung, Lesly T. For change of Name. The application of Phung, Lesly T. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Phung, Lesly T. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Fung, Andy T. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of October, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
AUG. 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251574

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Gidra Group. 155 Harriet Street #19, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Timothy G. Miller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/12/2001.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251660

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sir Fox Home Craftsman. 122 Hearst Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kenneth Wayne Hinton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, September 17, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/17/2001.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 251564

The following person(s) are doing business as: Osaka Sushi Vallejo. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Fragal, Inc. Efrén Galang, pres. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9/12/2001.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 324504

In the Matter of the Application of Ruthann Lowe For change of Name. The application of Ruthann Lowe for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ruthann Lowe has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Uma Schmidtke. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 20, 27, OCT. 4, 11, 2001

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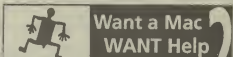
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page 32



Legendary tranny
The making of 'Myra
Breckinridge,' on AMC.
page 35



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 38 • 20 September 2001

Teenagers in trouble in 'L.I.E.'

Island of lost boys

by David Lamble

Paul Franklin Dano as Howie
in Michael Cuesta's *L.I.E.*

Met Howie Blitzter.
He's 15, and he's been skipping

school, hanging out with the wrong crowd, writing poetry on the sly, developing a crush on his best friend Gary, trying on his dead mother's lipstick, and breaking into houses. Howie's developed this theory that his life's been cursed by a freeway, more specifically by the Long Island Expressway (L.I.E.) "A lot of people have died on it — Harry Chapin; Allan Pakula, the movie director, you've probably heard of them. I bet you never heard of Sylvia Blitzter, my mom. She died in a crash at Exit 52. I really miss her. It's taken a lot of people. I hope it doesn't get me."

L.I.E., opening Friday, is a movie destined to rank among the finest attempts to depict the many, sometimes subtle perils of adolescence. In the first scene, we see Howie (Paul Franklin Dano in an astonishingly intuitive depiction of a young man who manages to come at your heart from every imaginable direction) walking a dangerous path across a handrail suspended over the deadly roadway. It's hard, while praying that Howie finds his way across the L.I.E., to forget that a real-life gay boy killed himself jumping off a freeway overpass in Oregon a few years ago. Dano, the actor, and the trio of filmmakers responsible for *L.I.E.* (brothers Michael and Gerald Cuesta and Stephen M. Ryder) are not saying for certain that Howie is gay. True, Howie's housebreaking buddies, Brian and

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Lypsinka returns to San Francisco

Read her lips

by Richard Dodds

It was a strange day to be talking about a character named Lypsinka, something that John Epperson painfully recognized. "It all seems so petty in the scheme of things," said the gentle performer who turns himself into the raging Lypsinka in his celebrated stage show.

It was Sept. 11, that dreadful Tuesday, and Epperson clutched a cell phone as he awaited word from friends and colleagues back home in New York. Sitting in his dressing room at the Alcazar Theatre, where *Lypsinka! The Boxed Set* officially opens Sept. 25, he was also awaiting word if previews would still begin on schedule.

A knock on the door. Yes, the producers had decided to proceed. Epperson smiled wanly. "Someone said to me that my tickets should have co-payment with an HMO because they felt that the show was so funny that the laughter was healing," Epperson said. "If people want to take their minds off this tragedy for an hour and 15 minutes, I suppose they could come and laugh."

And then the performer and the reporter made a bargain: for the next hour or so they would proceed with the interview as if all were

right with the world. While that make-believe state could not be entirely sustained, laughter did find its way back into a dialogue that still proved occasionally introspective.

Lypsinka, for those who have missed her numerous appearances at the late Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, is a high-maintenance diva created by Epperson who sings and talks in voices taken from hundreds of sources. From famous film dialogue to obscure lounge singers, these bits and pieces come together to create a montage that can be as unforgettable as it is indescribable.

Thanks in part to a rave in *The New York Times* for *The Boxed Set*, this past year has seen the Lypsinka phenomenon move to a new level. Venues, like the Alcazar, are larger, and production values are slicker. "It's so elaborate," Epperson said, "that I hope it will knock people's socks off."

And yet Epperson, in his mid 40s, had thought he was done with Lypsinka as a lip-syncher. "In the last four years I've been doing lots of other stuff, and I intended to come back to San Francisco with a completely different

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Lypsinka, aka John Epperson, at Macy's Passport 01 fundraiser last week.

Durfee / Photographs

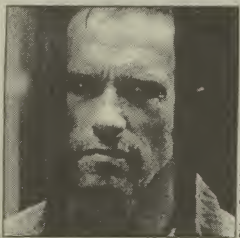
SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Warren Peace

We don't know about you, but Out There is down to our last gay nerve after last week's tragedies and the steady drumbeat of war on the airwaves and in the press. There's danger in the wind, and our diet pills are just about wearing off!

From Hollywood comes word that the release of director **Edward Burns'** *Sideways of New York* has been postponed, due to the title's unfortunate connotations in light of last week's attack. *Sideways'* sneak-preview ad campaign featured Burns and foxy co-star **Heather Graham** in front of the skyline of pre-terror NYC, which at that time included a certain twin towers. Oops, back to the drawing board for Paramount Pictures publicity.

Someone at Warner Bros. also had the good sense to delay (or, if still possible, abort!) the scheduled October release of acting refrigerator **Arnold Schwarzenegger** in *Collateral Damage*. Here's



The Arnold, shelved.

the capsule description: "When he loses his wife and his young son in a terrorist attack on a Los Angeles office building, a firefighter [that would be the Arnold] heads to Colombia to find those responsible."

This is a movie which should never be released. In fact, how about a moratorium on all movies which feature bomb blasts, car explosions and incinerating death-rays from space, offered up as entertainment? In the aftermath of this calamity, maybe America can finally face up to its appetite for violence in films and television, and go cold turkey from gore porn.

Touchstone's *Big Trouble* from



Big Trouble in trouble

director **Barry Sonnenfeld** (comic actor **Tim Allen** finds a bomb in a suitcase, hilarious) has also been canceled for the time b. Now if only the Administration's idea of *Big Trouble* could be shelved as well, but as we go to press Tuesday we feel the awful wheels already set in motion.

These are great times if you're an arms dealer, but pretty grim for the rest of us. OT doesn't know where it all will end, only that violence begets more violence. A modest proposal: why not dose the drinking water supply of Afghanistan with enough Valium to mellow the populace? That way, crazy fundamentalists can still have their religious trances, but they won't bother to plot to kill us because — hey dude, relax, have another glass of water.

Tragic acts

Happily, many scheduled arts events in SF were not canceled last week, but then most don't involve any pyrotechnic effects. By a serendipitous effect of the schedule, the second week of the season brought us **Michael Tilson Thomas** and his San Francisco Symphony in their sterling realization of **Mahler's Sixth (Tragic)**. The musical exploration of mankind's darkest impulses and the suddenness of tragedy seemed

headline-perfect. Thank you to the musicians, their leader, and SFS staff for knowing intuitively that art and public performance are resources, not liabilities, in times like these.

One of the unexpected windfalls of the copious media coverage given to the tragedy in Manhattan was a brief on-the-street interview with Oxford scholar **Chelsea Clinton**, who was there on the city streets, holding **Bubba's** hand and being brave on the sidewalks of New York. Doesn't she have classes — or is she on independent study with an Oxford don?

Chelsea had been in lower Manhattan during the attack, 12 blocks from the blast, and when the TV reporter asked her what she "made of all this," she responded, "There's nothing to be made of it, it's a tragedy." It was the first time OT had ever heard her voice after all those years of media clampdown, and we thought, "Oh, that's what she sounds like," kinda deep-throated and slurry, like a true Southerner.

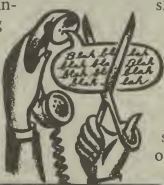
Walking man

Still on KQED-TV's schedule for tonight as of presstime (and pending outright war, we guess) is the premiere broadcast of *And Then One*

Night: The Making of Dead Man Walking on KQED tonight (Thurs., Sept. 20 at 8 p.m.; repeats Sept. 23, 10 p.m.) It's a behind-the-scenes peek which takes us from the conception of San Francisco Opera's commission of the death-penalty opera, all the way through to opening night.

We learn that then-General Director **Lotfi Mansouri's** first choice for the commission was to have first-time opera composer **Jake Heggie** do an adaptation of a French film directed by René Clair called *Les Belles de Nuit* (*Beauties of the Night*). First-time opera librettist **Terrence McNally** promptly nixed that idea.

It's a long tumble from frilly French fantasy to death row in Louisiana's Angola Prison, where convicted murderer **Joe de Rocher** (studly baritone **John Packard**) awaits death by lethal injection. Compassionate nun



Out There



Dead Man Walking: Death row comes to PBS

Sister Helen Prejean (Susan Graham) visits Joe, they sing marvelous duets, and then she walks the walk with him.

There's lots of backstage tension as opening night approaches, with wry commentary from conductor **Patrick Summers**, Heggie and McNally. Then it's fun to relive the premiere at the War Memorial Opera House in Sept. '99, back during peacetime. Look, there's glamorous and progressive **Susan Sarandon**, who played Sister Helen in the movie, in a party dress! There's pugnacious **Sean Penn**, who played Joe in the flick, male-bonding in a headlock with Packard.

But, thankfully, Hollywood faces are only cameos in this making-of doc, which also investigates both sides of the capital punishment debate through interviews with family members from both ends of capital crimes. Particularly compelling is a murder victim's mother, who, after describing the gruesome deeds in some anguish, says that she couldn't execute the murderer herself. "So why should I ask my government to do something which I couldn't bring myself to do?"

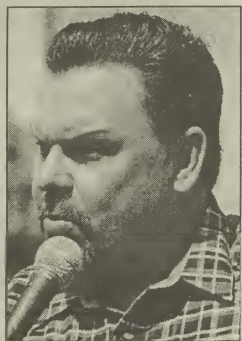
Piece of the Rockwell

The bold graphic work of artist **Rockwell Kent** has always been one of Out There's private obsessions, and an exhibit now at **George Krevsky Gallery** called *Hidden Treasures* reveals prints, a few paintings, and ephemera never before publicly exhibited. In the '50s, Kent was defiant before the red-baiting **Joe McCarthy** committee, then was largely passed over by museums and galleries for a long time, thanks to an art-world reputation as too radical.

But its clarity and aesthetic strength make Kent's work speak for itself, and it has withstood the test of time. Two lithographs especially seem of the current moment: "Eternal Vigilance Is the

Price of Liberty" (1945) and "Fire!" (1948), inspired from a 1943 poster Kent drew for the Office of Civilian Defense.

Rockwell Kent: Hidden Treasures, a good example of a commercial gallery show with museum-quality appeal, is up through Sept. 29 at **George Krevsky Gallery**, 77 Geary St.



Thomas Kinkadee in Hiddenbrook

Schlock therapy

Schlockmeister **Thomas Kinkadee** left his art compound on the Peninsula to appear in person at the opening of a new housing development in North Vallejo earlier this month.

The residences at **Hiddenbrook** are your garden variety sub-suburban housing compound near a golf course. But the houses within the much-prized neighborhood of "The Village, a Thomas Kinkadee Community" are reportedly selling like hot cakes. They feature such amazing Kinkadesque touches as faux half-timbered Tudor elements and faux Victorian flourishes. Four different house plans available for sale in the Village are named for the Kinkadee daughters: the **Merritt**, the **Winsor**, the

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THEATRE

Lezziemanian at Rhino Studio

I Love Lezzie comedy troupe's singing, dancing and silly stuff

by Richard Dodds

We don't do any power tool jokes," says Jan Stafford. "We're into singing and dancing and silly stuff and wearing big wigs."

Stafford is one of the co-founders of I Love Lezzie, a comedy troupe that belies the notions that lesbians are, in Stafford's phrase, "humor-phobic."

I Love Lezzie returns Sept. 20 to the Studio at Theatre Rhino for a three-week run, this time with a new one-act musical in addition to the troupe's traditional sketch comedy.

"Frankly, the kind of show we do is very different from anything I have ever seen lesbians do," Stafford said. "I've never seen a lesbian comedy troupe do a lot of musical comedy and a lot of wacky stuff that we do."

In the first act of the new I Love Lezzie show, the cast of 12 does sketches about a group of over-the-hill boogie-boarders, two fem-lesbian robbers armed with cans of Aqua Net, a stage show titled *The Uterus Dialogues*, and evangelist Aimee Simplee McPhearsome.

The second act will bring something new for I Love Lezzie: the debut of a one-act musical that is an excerpt from a full-length musical that the troupe hopes to present next year. "It's called *Last Call at the Ball and Chain*, and this part of the musical takes place in a San Francisco lesbian bar in 1958," Stafford said. "As the play progresses, we look in at the bar in 1968, 1978, and 1988."

Stafford wanted to preview the 1958 segment now, she said, "because I've met a lot of younger lesbians who are not even aware of the fact that bars were raided and

The I Love Lezzie Show at Theatre Rhino, with co-founder Jan Stafford, second from left



it was risky to be an out lesbian. But it's actually an affectionate look at the kind of characters I knew when I hung out in bars — funny, wisecracking dames."

It's been more than a decade since Stafford and her partner Maxine Kincora — both computer-journal writers — started entertaining friends at their house and at parties. Next came shows at annual lesbian campouts organized by Stafford and Kincora, and that led to appearances at Luna Sea, the Viva Variety shows and other AIDS benefits.

Actually, they once did do power-tool jokes. "Back at the campout, we did a sketch about the Handy Dyke who had all these power tools that were made into dildos," Stafford said. "We didn't do that one for the general public."

When they started out, audiences were totally lesbian. "But now gay men are some of our best audiences," Stafford said. "We do a lot of entertainment-industry parodies that really strike home with gay men. Last year, Maxine did a hysterical thing where she was on a book tour as Betty Boop,

which she plays a self-help guru offering her philosophies on relationships. Stafford's own 17-year relationship with Kincora gets mentioned, at least the part that turned them into poster girls for gay marriage.

"In 1996," Stafford said, "Willie Brown held the first citywide domestic-partners ceremony. Maxine was absolutely positive everybody would come really dressed up because it was San Francisco, and

we went out and got big old wedding dresses. We showed up, and we were the only

ones in big old wedding dresses. I think it was an image that really captured people's imaginations."

Not only did they make the front pages of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Oakland Tribune*, and the *San Jose Mercury News*, their high-tulle images were seen in *Life* magazine, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *London Guardian*. It even made the *Greensboro Daily News* in North Carolina, where Stafford's parents live.

"It was actually a remarkable experience," Stafford said. "Gifts started pouring in. Our gay friends thought it was a hoot, and our straight friends took it very seriously."

Making comedy together, Stafford said, has only strengthened their relationship. "We're a great team," she said. "I'm an organizer, and Max is a really good director. It's been remarkably harmonious."

For more information on I Love Lezzie, call 861-5079.

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Jesus, Othello and Django

Oakland Ballet's rough and cool opening

by Michael Wade Simpson

The Oakland Ballet Company is a lot like Oakland the city, busy reinventing itself, a little rough and cool, surprisingly attractive, and free to take risks. Jerry Brown is the Mayor and Karen Brown is the Artistic Director, and they were both on hand on opening night, September 15, working the crowd at the stunning art-deco Paramount Theatre. What a shame that the house was only half-full. Perhaps it was a reflection of a country on the brink of war, but this company deserves a lot better.

Brown chose to open the season with nary a classical moment on stage. Val Caniparoli's *Djangology* was a curtain-opener set to Django Reinhardt's jazz guitar music; *The Moor's Pavane*, a dramatic re-telling of the Othello story, is a modern dance classic by José Limón; and *Thirsting, The Woman at the Well* by Robert Henry Johnson, a world premiere, featured live music (and sounds) from the well-known a cappella group Zap Mama.

The female dancers may have been wearing toe shoes, but the movement could have been taken from the stage of any major modern dance company. The blurring of distinctions between modern and classical dance forms continues, and for companies without the resources or talent to produce

gargantuan productions of war-horse ballets, it makes a lot of sense to stay modern — it certainly shows this small company to great advantage.

Oakland Ballet is a young, attractive group, and they managed to produce not just technical ease, but solid acting and a versatile approach to world dance that allowed them to master everything from break-dancing to Indian neck undulations without looking like ballet dancers attempting something ridiculous. But, best of all, the works presented had thought, feeling and depth behind them. Bravo to the Artistic Director, who, after a career with Dance Theatre of Harlem, seems to know her stuff.

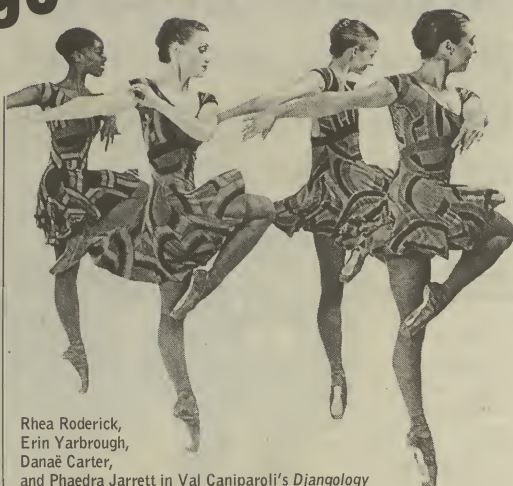
The premiere, *Thirsting, The Woman at the Well*, seemed about as Biblical as *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In* at the beginning, where feet were glimpsed warming up, and cartoon-colored costumes were rubber tutus in chartreuse with purple undersides. There were a clown and a trickster in a big red hat; a big, blonde shirtless Jesus, just like in the Sunday School illustrations; and women with gourds. "Every one that drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst again" (*John* 4:10) was the basis for the narrative, but from the moment the curtain raised about two feet, to reveal a stage full of shoes warming up, this was no literal exercise.

In fact, the way that Johnson chose to weave narrative and achieve emotional weight, through the use of live singing and multiculturally-influenced choreography, demonstrated something powerful and intuitive about his dance-making. Where others show and tell, Johnson seems to play, both with movement and the layering of narrative elements. There were moments when the Jesus character (Samuel Pott) looked like he was starring in an East Indian rock video, others where the stage looked like a crazy dream, with dancers representing a fence, a road, a birdman, a ballerina, and Pierrot the clown. There was something about the music, however, all varied and loose, with sighs and laughs and whispers, along with singing and talking in French and English, that made the movement seem grounded and inevitable, like some colorful children's fantasy.

Well-grounded

For all of ballet's classical attention to weightlessness and air, Oakland Ballet seems almost more comfortable being grounded, shaking their hips, break-dancing and telling stories. It's a welcome relief from the land of swans and fairies.

Djangology presented the nostalgic sounds of Reinhardt's '30s jazz, nine songs in all, from the well-known ("Georgia on my Mind," "Ain't Misbehavin'") to the



Rhea Roderick, Erin Yarbrough, Danaë Carter, and Phaedra Jarrett in Val Caniparoli's *Djangology*

Marty Schell

less-known ("Minor Swing" and "Ise a Muggin'"). Caniparoli, a San Francisco Ballet choreographer who has had success internationally, knows how to walk the line between cute and interesting in his choreography, as well as jumping so swiftly between jazz-dance idioms and ballet riffs that one is always waiting for the next surprise. Something as simple as a single woman crossing the stage in a hip sway seems profound when she repeats the phrase in the company, the second time, of several female dancers, taking them off into a quartet of barrel-rolls, petite allegro and drunken pratfalls that turn into smooth virtuosity, leaps and turns.

The Moor's Pavane is a character study more than anything, and

the four dancers Osmani Garcia as the Moor, Cynthia Shappard as his wife, Samuel Pott as the Friend, and Yaira Esquivel-Britto as the Friend's Wife, showed a great ability to embody strong emotions without exaggeration. Limón's great contribution may be his fall-recovery technique of movement, but in this dance he created a masterpiece of simplicity, a court dance to Purcell music that swirls into a moving portrayal of characters and conflict. The dancers were supremely confident, and while the dancing was somewhat hidden by the long dresses of the women and the frockcoats of the men, what was shown through gesture and face and body language was as powerful as any series of steps. ▼

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Dark Irish

San Jose Repertory's
'By the Bog of Cats'

by Richard Dodds

Last week was obviously not the best time to be opening a play that ends in wrenchingly tragic violence. But if *By the Bog of Cats* at San Jose Rep provided neither the escape nor the catharsis that audiences may have been craving, this contemporary Irish variation on *Medea* does offer a compelling look into a mind warped by human unkindness.

In spite of the unfortunate timing, this production of Marina Carr's play represents a major achievement for San Jose Rep. It has attracted a major talent, Holly Hunter, and has surrounded this luminous actress with performers and a production that justify her decision to return to the stage at this particular regional theater.

It is also an introduction to Bay Area audiences of yet another acclaimed young playwright emerging from Ireland. If Carr sometimes loses her footing as the increasingly desperate story of Hester Swane unfolds, she also creates scenes of wry poetry, full-out comedy, and gripping intensity.

Hunter plays Hester, a slatternly woman from a disreputable family who, during the dawn-to-dusk expanse of the play, fights a ferocious battle to win back her ex-lover (and father of her child),



Holly Hunter in *Bog*: luminous

who is about to marry the daughter of a prominent landowner. Hunter is never less than enthralling as she creates a character

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OPERA

'Queen' pays off in spades

High-stakes production succeeds at Los Angeles Opera

by Stephanie von Buchau

The Los Angeles Opera's *The Queen of Spades*, which I heard two Mondays ago, was not only that company's first-ever Russian language production, it was the finest performance I've heard at LAO and, without doubt, the best-sung Tchaikovsky opera I've heard live. It was given in a fascinating if flawed production by director-designer Gottfried Pilz, the same sort of thing I imagine we'll be seeing from San Francisco Opera's new, European-oriented regime.

A lot of people hated the way it looked, but then a lot of people hated the SFO *Parsifal* two summers ago, and this is a similar type of production — deeply psychological in its staging, but forced into a scenic concept that sometimes struck viewers as ugly, bizarre and anti-musical. The monotone costumes didn't even flatter the singers with good figures, while the tilted, single-set ballroom in which the action took place failed miserably as a milieu during Lisa's scene on the Nevsky Prospekt when, instead of jumping to her death in the icy river, she merely exited upstage through an open door.

Still, as far as I'm concerned, this silliness didn't matter, because it was overwhelmed by the expressive musical performance. When *Queen of Spades* is not executed well — as when Rostropovich butchered it here in 1975, the infamous performance that got me banned from SFO for being the only kid to point out that the conductor was naked — it can seem slow, creaky, old-fashioned, demented without depth. When it is done as it was in Los Angeles, the evening sweeps by in what seems like minutes, searing the eardrums and eyeballs.

It is true that the leading men were at least 10-20 years too old for their roles, and that the leading lady is having a vocal crisis that results in her not believing that she can hit certain high notes (with predictable moments of muscular paralysis), but those were mere hiccups in a dramatic engine that did exactly what the composer (and his original source, poet Alexander Pushkin) wanted it to do — fill the viewer with Aristotelian terror and pity at the way humans destroy themselves through hubris. Given the horrific events at the World Trade Center and elsewhere the very next morning, this dramatic lesson could not have been more apropos.

Compulsive gambler

Plácido Domingo, artistic di-



Plácido Domingo was in amazing form in LA Opera's *Queen of Spades*.

rector of LAO as well as leading man, was in amazing form as Herman, the compulsive gambler who stakes love and honor on three cards. At 60, his rocklike tenor remained tireless through a long evening, and he was fully committed dramatically. As his beloved Lisa, a headcase herself who refuses the love of a handsome, wealthy, dignified aristocrat in order to throw in her lot with crazy Herman, Galina Gorchakova displayed the aforementioned psychological voice problem (she has the notes, she's just scared of them for some reason). It didn't really bother me, since most of the time she sang with rich intensity, color and strength, looked like an overripe peach, and acted with pointed fanaticism. Her rejection of her legitimate lover was cruelly portrayed.

As the old Countess who knows the secret of the three cards, Elena Obratzsova had a triumph. At 64, she still has the best figure on stage, and is still astonishingly beautiful — the

bearing that Lisa seemed even dimmer than usual to reject him. Irina Mateva (Chloé) and Suzanna Poretsky (Pauline/Daphnis) are two vibrant young singers from whom we will surely hear more.

Valery Gergiev, as we know from his appearances at both SFO and the San Francisco Symphony, can be both exciting and erratic. Here, he gave one of those performances I treasure from a conductor. Never calling attention to himself, he laid down a bed of idiomatic Russian sound at ideal tempos on which the singers could execute the composer's musical ideas with conversational flexibility. Never stressed or overwhelmed, they were in perfect

balance with the orchestra as eloquently expressive advocates of Tchaikovsky's music drama.

Because of the week's tragic events, the *Lohengrin*, conducted by Kent Nagano, was postponed before I could hear it. Its cast, including our old friend Eva Marton as Ortrud and a striking new soprano named Adrienne Pieczonka making her debut as Elsa, looked luscious. Clearly, SFO can no longer pretend that LAO is a second-rank opera company. Domingo has thrown down the gauntlet, and if a rivalry means both companies can elevate their game to the level of this *Queen of Spades*, there are thrilling operatic nights ahead of us. ▼

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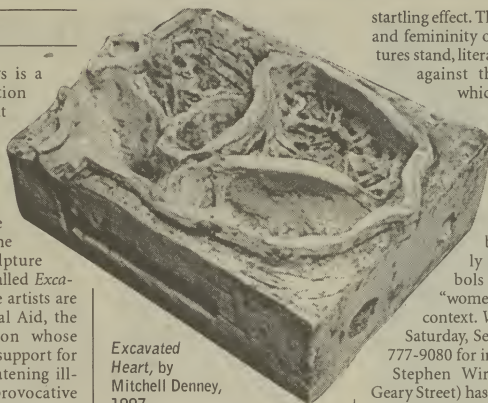
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Art for troubled times

Report from the galleries in September

by Will Shank

In its last few days is a moving installation called *Viscera* at Space 743 (743 Harrison.) An appropriate exhibition for these troubled times, *Viscera* tears your heart out—in some cases literally, as in the case of a ceramic sculpture by Mitchell Denney called *Excavated Heart*. All of the artists are associated with Visual Aid, the volunteer organization whose mission is to provide support for artists with life-threatening illnesses. There are provocative works by Horea, recently seen at Gallery 16, and Nancer Le Moins, whose confrontational prints continue to evolve thoughtfully. But the show-stopper is a back wall of photographs and sculptures by Margaret Herscher. Using her own experiences with surgery as a



Excavated Heart, by Mitchell Denney, 1997

subject, Herscher has paired finely crafted bronzes ("Boots," "Gloves with Rings," "V-Shaped Thread Rack") with black-and-white photographs of her own body ("Mastectomy," "Biopsy") to

startling effect. The inherent grace and femininity of the five sculptures stand, literally, in bold relief against the five photos, which show the ravages of disease on a woman's body. The thread rack and a neighboring bronze of "Scissors" become especially gripping symbols of traditional "women's work" in this context. *Viscera* closes this Saturday, September 22; call 777-9080 for information.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery (49 Geary Street) has installed the latest ethereal works on paper by local artist Laurie Reid. Since the time of her 1998 SECA (Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art) award at SFOMA, more pigment has crept into her delicate watercolors, which were previously almost completely colorless. Design is created with a wet brush traced across the surface of thick watercolor paper, and the result is a white-on-white, low-relief sculpture. A certain Morris Louis-ness is now appearing in her forms, which curve, here and there, from the edges of the paper, or form symmetrical patterns like a Rorschach test. The most beautiful still crinkle the paper in gentle horizontal ripples, or systematic brick-like patterns. Through October 20.

Elsewhere in 49 Geary, Tim Cummings' installation at Catharine Clark is truly disturbing and brilliant. His acrylic *chiaroscuro* figures are like Flemish portraits which have been run through a ringer or stamped with black doily stencils. See it before it closes on September 29!

Upstairs in the same building, there are two photography shows worth viewing. Edward Koch Gallery has installed historic pho-



Merry Widow (bronze, photograph), by Margaret Herscher

tos, mostly of California, by Carleton Watkins, who has become a familiar name recently, and Eadweard Muybridge, best known for his early photo studies of running figures and horses. And the Fraenkel Gallery has a triple show: works by Lee Friedlander, the creepy *Little Screens*, showing TV images in the corners of tawdry motel rooms; Diane Arbus; and, in the back room, *Public Relations*, works by Gary Winograd from the 1960s and 1970s showing "the effect of media on events," according to the artist. These images particularly resonate in our troubled times. Both photography

shows run through October 27.

Across the street at 14 Geary, Gallery Paule Anglim has airlifted in five horses by Deborah Butterfield. *Tour de forces* of three-dimensional *trompe-l'oeil*, the graceful nags appear to be made of twigs from her homes in Montana or Hawai'i, but they are in fact cast and patinated bronze. The exhibition continues until October 6.

And in case you hadn't heard, the San Francisco International Art Exposition at Fort Mason, planned for this weekend, has been re-scheduled for January 2002. ▼

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She's baaaack!

AMC on the filming of 'Myra Breckinridge'

by Robert Julian

It was a great novel, a bestseller, and Gore Vidal received \$900,000 for the film rights. Twentieth Century Fox, anxious to cash in on the counterculture of the late '60s, started filming *Myra Breckinridge* in 1969 with an inexperienced director (Michael Sarne) and a cast that included Raquel Welch as the transsexual Myra, film critic Rex Reed, Mae West, John Huston, Jim Backus, Tom Selleck and Farrah Fawcett. It was, from the beginning, a disaster. Michael Sarne never made another movie; his magnum opus remains one of the biggest fiascoes in Hollywood history.

Now AMC's *Backstory* takes a look at the filming of *Myra Breckinridge* at 10 p.m., Monday, September 24. This all-too-brief walk down memory lane incorporates screen tests, clips, stills, and interviews with Sarne, Welch, Reed, and producer David Brown. Since the set was perpetually ensconced in a cloud of marijuana smoke, it should have been no surprise when budget and scheduling reeled out of control. Rex Reed describes it as the



'Rachel Woolch' as Myra

kind of shoot where the principal actors all holed up in their trailers, waiting for their attorneys to arrive.

Mae West, at the age of 76, was making her first film in 26 years. Despite the fact that she was playing a sex-crazed Hollywood agent,

she insisted on being given two musical numbers. She also insisted on writing her own dialogue, and refused to talk to Raquel Welch, or appear on camera with her. West referred to her as "Rachel Woolch" when forced to discuss her with third parties. Welch, who hoped *Myra* would establish her in Hollywood as an actress, became increasingly terrified about what was happening to the film. And director Sarne brilliantly interspersed old movie clips into the new footage, only to see most of them cut from the final print when exasperated actresses like Shirley Temple threatened to sue (Loretta Young *did* sue and won \$100,000).

This divine mess deserves more in-depth treatment than it gets in the 22 minutes contained in one episode of *Backstory*. But this addition to the behind-the-scenes Hollywood canon will be catnip for anyone who remembers the book, or the movie. Welch proves to be an incredibly good sport, and the footage from *Myra* is provocative enough to generate a whole new audience for one of the tackiest movies ever lensed. File under "guilty pleasures." ▼

Sweet silent thought

Kronos plays Riley's 'Requiem for Adam'

by Michael McDonagh

In the program note for his First Sacred Concert, Duke Ellington wrote, "Every man prays in his own language, and there is no language that God does not understand." And by that, I think he meant that our relation to the divine is on a one-to-one basis, and that our friendships can have that quality, too. The connections between San Francisco's Kronos Quartet and composer Terry Riley are certainly complex and deeply personal, and their new Nonesuch CD, their 30th for the label, sets these in bold relief.

Minimalist guru Riley — his seminal *In C* was first performed at the San Francisco Tape Music Center at 321 Divisadero in 1964 — has known the group since both were in residence at Mills College in 1978. While there, Kronos' founder and first violinist David Harrington kept telling the composer that he heard string quartets in his music, which was odd because Riley hadn't composed anything for that venerable medium since 1960, and had been writing in a structured yet improvisational style. But he and Kronos eventually worked out an approach which changed their collective attitude to how music could be written and performed.

This process resulted in two big pieces for them — *Cadenza on the Night Plain* (1984), with its remarkable portraits of the players, and *Salome Dances for Peace* (1985-86) — as well as numerous smaller ones. And when you add the fact that Riley had known David and his wife Regan's son Adam from childhood until his death from a heart attack at 16, in 1995, it obviously couldn't be or get more personal.

The first movement of the



Kronos Quartet has deep personal connections with composer Terry Riley.

1998 *Requiem*, "Ascending the Heaven Ladder," uses a 4-note motive based on the 13th-century Latin sequence *Dies Irae* (*Day of Wrath, That Dreadful Day*), which depicts the Day of Judgment in the Roman Church's *Requiem Mass*. Riley subjects this material, which haunts the work, to a series of seamless variations for the quartet — the viola (Hank Dutt) taking the motive first, with cello (Jennifer Culp) pizzicato, then violins one and two (Harrington and John Sherba) joining in. The ascending abruptly stops about eight minutes into the 13-minute movement, and ghostly harmonics enter, an arresting sound, with successive and very personal solos for the quartet. There are also beautiful interlocking patterns for cello and viola, and a very striking blues sound for the same combination.

The 7-minute central movement, "Cortejo Funebre en el Monte Diablo," imagines a raucous funeral march on Mt. Diablo, where Adam died while walking with his family. And though it's a very original blending of scherzo and adagio elements, with synth-produced samples recorded by Riley, and live quartet playing, your reviewer has to admit that it's always sounded to him like a pinball machine on crack. Things

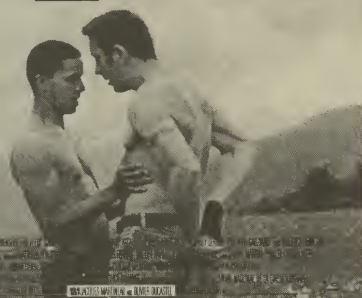
are a lot less self-indulgent in the concluding 21-minute third movement, "Requiem for Adam." And there are many highly imaginative and deeply touching moments here, especially the very expressive cello solo in the coda, which is surrounded by the soft mewling of the other strings, and glassy harmonics.

Possibly even more beautiful and affecting is the CD's companion piece, *The Philosopher's Hand*, composed as a memorial to Riley's North Indian vocal master Pandit Pran Nath, whom he'd studied and sung with since becoming his disciple in 1970, and who passed in 1996. Composed last year and played by Riley on Skywalker's Blüthner grand, it's perfect, years of devotion and affection seeming to radiate from within it. Riley has also written two other requiems for Kronos, "Mario in Cielo," for cellist Joan Jeanrenaud's stillborn son by Alessandro Moruzzi; and "Lachrymosa (Remembering Kevin)" for Dutt's lover, baritone Kevin Freeman, who was an original member of Chanticleer, and died of AIDS. The sound throughout the album is warm and lovingly produced. The quartet's next Bay Area appearance is September 30 at UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. Thank God they don't have to take a plane to get there. ▼

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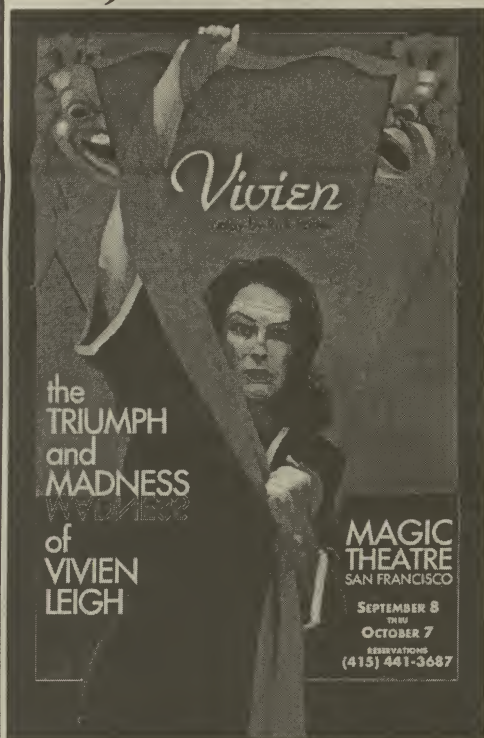


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L.I.E.

◀ Arts cover

Kevin, are sure that Howie and Gary are an item, doing the old horizontal mambo, but we the audience are getting rather mixed signals.

Gary (Billy Kay, a Long Island native who's got the talk and the walk of a hustler-in-training) is stringing Howie along with sweet talk. It's as if Gary sees Howie as a would-be client as much as a friend, let alone boyfriend. Sitting around a campfire in a scene that first strikes echoes of River Phoenix confessing his love for Keanu Reeves in *My Own Private Idaho*, Gary suggests that they swap secrets. Howie takes a drag on a cigarette and confesses, "I've never really been with a girl." Taking that as his cue, Gary starts mindfucking his buddy. Running his hand through Howie's punky haircut, Gary coos, "You've got good skin, great eyes... those highlights in your hair... people go nuts over that shit."

What does Gary want of Howie — to tease him, to fuck him, or perhaps one day to pimp him in distant LA, when they're both doing it for hire along Santa Monica Blvd.? The next day, Gary insinuates himself into Howie's home (a plush if sterile mansion built by Howie's contractor father, Marty), sneaks up to Howie's room, and cops an eyeful of Howie in his BVDs. He says, "You've got nothing to be ashamed of."

"I'm not ashamed of anything."

"Sometimes skinny guys are shy about their bodies."

Turns out Gary is casing

Howie's crib, looking for the cold cash Marty keeps in his bedroom bureau.

Father figure

L.I.E. (and yes, part of the metaphor stands for lying) is ultimately a meditation on what it means to be a father in these anxious times. On paper at least, Howie has a father, although as we first meet him, Marty Blitzer is a bit distracted, banging his "bimbo" (Howie's term) and staying one jump ahead of an FBI probe into his construction firm. Howie's attempt to talk with Marty leaves him either in tears, in pain (a black eye), or in a state of rage. He asks, "How would you feel if I got some guy to replace you?"

What has made L.I.E. controversial and helped earn it an NC-17 rating (no one 17 and under admitted) is the way Howie goes about finding a substitute dad.

A scant 40 miles from the towers of Manhattan, Dix Hills, Long Island seems to consist mostly of vast lawns that water themselves, attached to luxury tract-houses that seem to tend to themselves, not unlike the fully automated residences Ray Bradbury imagined in his *Martian Chronicles*. Howie's room is better-equipped than most big-city studio apartments — his own computer, mini-frig, big screen TV, separate bathroom. If only he could escape the sound of his father banging his mistress in the master bedroom, Howie might have no reason ever to leave his room.

The gang of four kids, Howie's posse, meets and eats at the Dix Hills Diner. One day while wolfing down breakfast, Howie is surprised by the sudden appearance



Brian Cox as Big John, Paul Franklin Dano as Howie in L.I.E.

of a stranger who speaks fluent French and seems to know an awful lot about Howie's dead mom. Big John Harrigan offers to drive Howie home. Taking a piece of blue fabric out of his pocket, John calls it "Cinderella's glass slipper." Howie realizes it's the pocket torn off his jeans the night he and Gary were almost caught rifling through the basement of some rich old bugger.

Brian Cox plays Big John Harrigan as if he were Big John Wayne, rather than the proprietor of an island of lost boys. Interviewed, Cox admits he's played more than his share of characters commonly thought of as monsters, and "I'm in the business of de-demonizing them." He explains that part of the secret of playing villains is to strip them of the traits that cue kneejerk re-

sponses in audiences, to see them as rounded human beings who firmly believe that they're doing the right thing. His Big John has a loving relationship with his elderly mother, is a supporter of the Suffolk County Police, and has ascribed to himself a kind of mythic role during the Vietnam War. Howie quips, "I guess you're just like James Bond, only James Bond doesn't blow little boys."

Cox says that some of his own frustrations as an actor furnished him with clues to the frustrated paternal instincts in Big John. "The film is about parenting, and John is given this opportunity, this gift after having tried to hit on the boy, of becoming a parent, and he takes to it like a duck to water, he's immensely successful at it. That's what's heroic about

the film, the way he really mentors this kid. Of course, by doing that he also invites his tragedy, because it's always hard to change roles in midstream."

The second half of L.I.E. is an extraordinary dance between two characters, as Howie and John constantly hover over a very fine line between father/son, lover/beloved and predator/victim. "John is in the tradition of big Irish-American heroes, he could be straight out of a John Ford film. That's what I liked about the film, that it had all these classical American [elements], but in this slightly distorted persona, because of his dark soul."

Following a whirlwind courtship in John's Mustang, Howie hops out of the car and slyly relieves himself in the woods, sneaking a glance back at John, who murmurs, "Are you trying to seduce me?" Later, John will tenderly give Howie his first shave.

L.I.E.'s writers avoid the trap of employing the latest teen slang in their dialogue, and instead allow Howie to seduce John through poetry, both Walt Whitman's and his own. The boys' brutal encounters are peppered with slurs that are both casually homophobic and more directly anti-Semitic. A hustler about to be replaced by Howie in Big John's affections slams the smaller boy against the wall. Pointing to some photographs of younger boys that litter the floor, Scott sneers, "That's going to be you someday, Mr. Special Boy. You're a typical Jew fuck. You've got everything you want, and you want to take what's mine." L.I.E. is ultimately the story of a boy who finds what's his in a long, dark night of the soul. ▼

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Bog of Cats

◀ page 32

whose independent quirkiness is a refreshing tonic to the surrounding hypocrisy and conventionality. But as she wins us over with her brash vibrancy, Hunter also begins to reveal a dark side that will eventually challenge our sympathies.

That *By the Bog of Cats* turns as dark as pitch, despite its entertainingly comic interludes, is not really a surprise, for the play opens with Hester meeting a Ghost Fancier in the bogs. But this Irish version of the Grim Reaper has mistaken dawn for dusk, and his promised return charges Hester with urgency and a fatalistic sense of power.

Almost everyone in this small community would prefer to see Hester leave, and she has been given great wads to money to en-

sure her departure. Certainly her ex-lover of 14 years would like to see this reminder of humbler times gone. So, too, his overbearing mother, tremulous fiancée, and the fiancée's rifle-toting father. Wearing her own gown and veil, Hester disrupts the wedding dinner in a scene that starts out as high comedy and ends up as arresting drama.

Director Timothy Near, San Jose Rep's artistic director, has staged Carr's play with verve and imagination on Joe Vanek's sleek representation of a barren world. It is not necessarily a world we may be eager to enter at this particular moment, but it would be folly to miss this memorable illumination of a descent into darkness. ▼

By the Bog of Cats will run at San Jose Rep through Oct. 7. Tickets are \$20-\$44. Call (408) 367-7255.

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Boys to men

Exposing the 'L.I.E.'

by Robert Julian

There hasn't been a likable pedophile in American movies since Dylan Baker played the pederast papa in Todd Solondz's *Happiness*. But in *L.I.E.*, writer/director Michael Cuesta's first film, Brian Cox portrays Big John, a suburban retiree with an ancient, nagging mother and a penchant for 15-year-old boys. This affable but creepy character is one reason *L.I.E.* earns an NC-17 rating from the Motion Picture Association of America. The rating suggests it's okay in America to make frank films about sexually active 15-year-old boys, as long as none of those boys ever gets to see them. Go figure.

L.I.E. is a literal abbreviation for the Long Island Expressway, but a symbolic metaphor for the fundamentally fraudulent way most of the film's characters conduct their lives. This is a motion picture by and about men; the female characters play only minor roles as nurturers or sex objects. And the men and boys at the core of *L.I.E.* act on their impulses, with little concern for consequences and even less understanding about the true motives for their actions.

Young Howie (Paul Franklin Dano) is the 15-year-old son of a sleazy contractor. His mom is dead, and his egomaniacal dad (Bruce Altman) runs around the

house in a construction hat, boffing his girlfriend in front of undraped windows. But Howie lives a more affluent lifestyle than his new best friend Gary (Billy Kay). With the help of two other boys, Gary gets Howie to participate in a series of house burglaries. One of their excursions is to the home of Big John, a regular trick Gary met while working the rest stop adjacent to the expressway. Big John soon figures out who is responsible for the burglary, and he tracks down Howie when Gary skips town. Howie, whose abusive father is soon imprisoned for his shady construction practices, is the perfectly vulnerable object of Big John's advances.

Cinematographer Romeo Tirone shoots *L.I.E.* in color, but with the kind of muted palate that will make you recall the film in black and white. His suburban landscape is bleak and sterile, reflecting the stark realities of these characters' lives. Stephen Ryder, with Michael and Gerald Cuesta, fashions a script that is remarkable in its ability to deviate from the obvious. You're never quite sure where the film is headed or what will happen to its protagonists. The intelligent material and direction assist the principal performers in delivering believable, three-dimensional portrayals of men in trouble.

Boy's world

Billy Kay's flashy portrait of



Billy Kay as adolescent hustler Gary, Paul Dano as sweet motherless child Howie in *L.I.E.*: hard to forget.

Gary, the adolescent hustler, is so compelling you wish he had more screen time. Pierced and tattooed, the handsome, manipulative Gary is the good time had by all—or at least all those with cash. His character is the perfect counterpoint for Paul Dano's Howie, a sweet motherless child yearning for affection and attention. Dano infuses his character with the quiet desperation more timid adolescents experience when their world begins to spin out of control. But the most complex characterization is Brian Cox's portrayal of

Big John. With license plates boasting the initials "BJ," Big John is the kind of guy who gives fella-tio a bad name. He works the rest stops, has quite a Polaroid collection of naked, barely pubescent youths, and maintains at least one live-in boy toy. Yet despite his particular fetish, he is a relatively decent man—good to his mother and at least superficially concerned about his boys, particularly Howie.

All of the characters in *L.I.E.* are on journeys of self-discovery, but Howie is the only one with

the intelligence and sensitivity to understand this. The unfolding fate of his character is what holds the movie together. Michael Cuesta does a remarkable job exploring suburban malaise in an original fashion. *L.I.E.* recalls both *Happiness* and *The Ice Storm*, but it stands quite comfortably on its own as an evocative small film that is hard to forget and impossible to dismiss. ▼

***L.I.E.* opens in the Bay Area on Friday.**

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Lypsinka

◀ Arts cover

kind of show," he said. "Lypsinka is talking now on stage. We did *Lypsinka Is Harriet Craig*, Charles Busch and I did a version of *The Children's Hour*, and we had a version of *Imitation of Life* called *Imitation of Imitation of Life*."

Well-placed 'Set'

While Epperson hasn't done a traditional Lypsinka show in San Francisco since 1997, it had been seven years since New York had seen him in his lip-synching guise. "I thought we'd do *The Boxed Set* for three-and-a-half weeks, make a little money, and that would be it," he said. "But what happened was that [New York Times theater critic] Ben Brantley came to see this performance, and it was obvious he had been a fan of mine for a long time. The review was so wonderful and so well-placed that it opened up a whole new audience."

Lypsinka! The Boxed Set is something of a greatest-hits show, mostly culled from previous productions, but with some new material as well.

"The next-to-last show I did at Josie's, called *Lypsinka Must Be Destroyed*, was especially contemplative, and it turned a lot of people off," Epperson said. "The show before that was called *As I Lay Lip-Synching*, which came out of a very deep depression triggered mainly by a horrible unrequited romance. So I thought, you've done your depression show and your metaphysical show, now just do a show that makes people laugh."

And yet, as this character modeled on the manufactured image of the ideal woman (at least in the Hollywood of the late '50s) races through a repertoire of sound bites, there is still some-



Lypsinka at Passport 01 reception last week in San Francisco.

thing to be found beyond the laughter. "If thoughtful audience members want to look," Epperson said, "they will find notions of a person who feels trapped, hence the title, and the contradictory nature of being a human being."

It doesn't require much of leap to see in Epperson a person who has felt trapped and contradictory. Growing up in Hazlehurst, Miss., he certainly didn't fit in. Picked upon because he was effeminate, he sought his escape, as so many do, with dreams of being in the movies.

"I had been working as a pianist with a ballet company in Mississippi," he said, "and then *The Turning Point* opened in

1997, and that film featured the American Ballet Theatre. Somehow I thought if I could get to New York, I would meet [Turning Point director] Herbert Ross and maybe get a job in the movies. Well, I did meet Herbert Ross, but it took 17 years."

Niche work

Epperson did quickly land a job as a rehearsal pianist at American Ballet Theatre, and he decided Broadway should be his foot in the door for Hollywood. "But then I realized you have to sing and dance and act, none of which I felt very secure about, and I didn't feel very secure about the way I looked, either," he said. "I

thought I should just bide my time until I found my niche."

That moment arrived when he found his way to a demimonde film club in a dumpsy space to see *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*.

"It was filled with kids my age, and they were all reacting to this movie in a way I had never seen before. I thought, 'Oh my God, I've found my world.' I thought this is a place I could perform in drag, because I had never performed in drag in Mississippi because it would have been too much of a social stigma. It was bad enough to be gay in Mississippi."

But Epperson, as Lypsinka, did eventually appear in drag in Mississippi, which is also the only time his parents have seen his performance. "It was 1996, and I was invited back to perform at a benefit for the local regional theater in Jackson," he said. "All three performances were SRO. It was a very emotional experience for me. I was in tears after every performance."

In 1993, Epperson told an interviewer that his dream was to win an Academy Award so he could say "Fuck you" to all the kids who taunted him back in Mississippi. His appearance in Jackson three years later, he said, helped fulfill some of that desire for payback.

"I've given up on the Oscar, but the Tony Award is within my grasp," said the man behind Lypsinka. "If I won, I wouldn't say 'Fuck you' — I'm not that angry anymore — but I might say, 'Look at where I am now.' But that experience in Jackson did feel like I was Carrie burning down the gym." ▼

Lypsinka! The Boxed Set is announced to run at Alcazar Theatre through Nov. 4. Tickets are \$25-\$40. Call 441-4042; go to www.lyp-tix.com.

Backstage

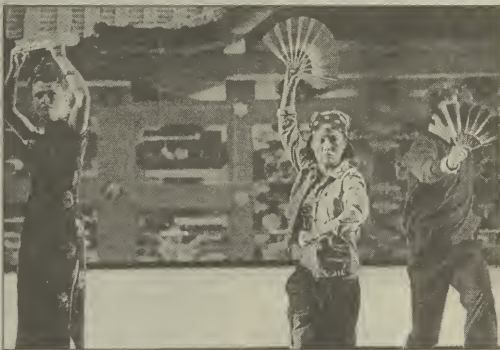
◀ page 31

Mini-review: '36 Views'

"Tales from the Orient," says one of the characters in *36 Views*, "have a kind of wilted quality." But Naomi Iizuka's play, having its world premiere at Berkeley Rep, finds a fresh frisson in the eternal East-West conundrum.

The rebuked teller of his adventures in the Orient is a slick but shady dealer in Asian artifacts, someone who both loves and exploits the cultures of his preoccupation. The speaker of the rebuke is an expert in Asian cultural history, herself Chinese, who is both drawn to and repelled by this Eastern-oriented Westerner.

They, and several others, are drawn into an intrigue that would seem arcane to many, but that rocks their insular world. A rare Japanese "pillow book," a kind of diary maintained by women of the court centuries ago, has apparently been uncovered. Emotions ranging from scholarly excitement to old-fashioned greed to cold-blooded re-



36 Views at Berkeley Rep: Pillow book rocks world.

venge are unleashed by this object with a deceptively comforting name.

Mark Wing-Davey's production at the new Roda Theatre (headed later to New York City's Public Theatre) is a stylish, high-tech affair that uses an elaborate projection system to add texture to the minimalist sets of Japanese-inspired screens. The cast is also a high-quality group that makes the most of Iizuka's sometimes-mid-

dlebow look at a world of high-brow pretense.

36 Views will run through Oct. 28. Call (510) 647-2949.

Darling Lillie

Beatrice Lillie's best work was seen on the stage between 1914, when she made her London debut, and 1963, when she appeared in her final Broadway show. A long run, but one preserved mainly in the fading mem-

ories of a dwindling audience. Lillie was a unique creation, part lady and part clown, with a faux innocence that could be devilishly subversive.

Of course, Lillie still has her dedicated fans, many of whom are too young to have first-hand memories of her, and for them *An Evening with Beatrice Lillie* should provide an in-person reminder of what Lillie was all about. Former San Franciscan (and Lillie look-alike) Layne Littlepage will be impersonating Lady Peel beginning Sept. 21 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

Littlepage, a graduate of UCSF, recently presented *An Evening with Beatrice Lillie* at a New York cabaret called the High Spirits Room. *Back Stage* magazine wrote, "A stylized performer of a school that is decidedly no longer contemporary, Lillie is given retro appeal by virtue of Littlepage's inspired excellence."

An Evening with Beatrice Lillie will run through Oct. 14. Call 861-8972. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



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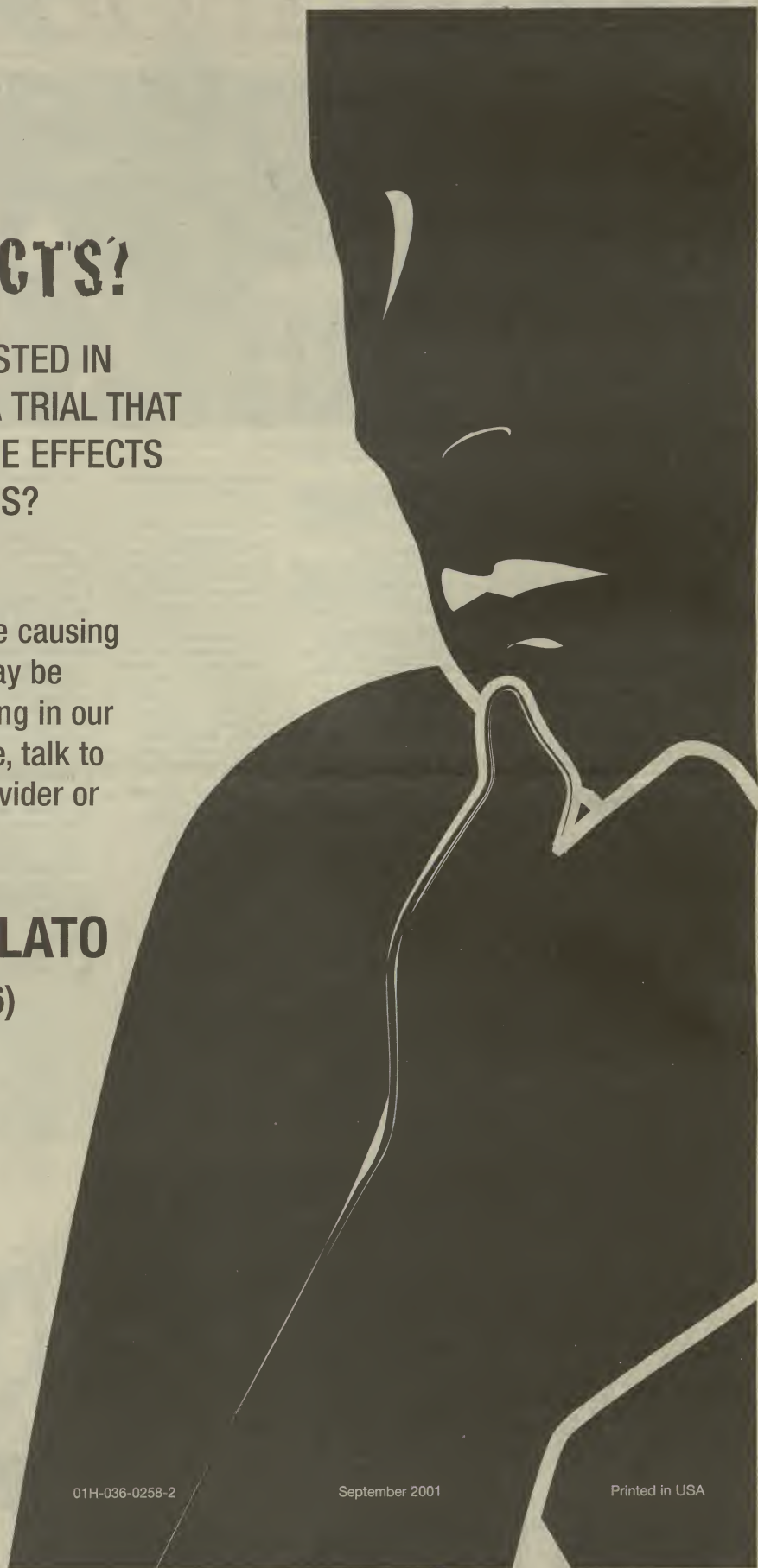
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September 2001

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



The "Queeruption" crowd

Queeruption 2001

An ambitious five-day event scheduled to begin in San Francisco and the East Bay two weeks from now, on Thursday October 4, harkens back to the glory days of Queer Nation, and it couldn't happen at a better time. As community building efforts go, this is one of the finest in ages, not for its inclusion of mainstream gay, lesbian, transgender and bi people (who already have organizations aplenty to serve their needs), but for its representation of all types of queers, especially the underclass and people of color.

"Queeruption 2001," as the gathering is called, is designed to bring together the creative, intellectual, activist and compassionate energies of queers from all parts of the globe, from all walks of life, meeting to share ideas and strategies for social change and survival. Such a meeting, in these times of enormous geo-political tensions, could greatly help to calm nerves, organize thoughts, develop consensus, and deepen connections. It could also motivate people to unified action in resistance to hatred and intolerance, clearly an imperative in the face of war anxieties.

In various locations, including the East Gay Cafe Warehouse and the SPAZ Warehouse, both in Oakland, plus the Women's Building, Media Alliance, and Brava Theater in SF, "Queeruption" will feature a plethora of workshops on such topics as sex-work, S&M, housing, homelessness and hunger; queer theory; bike repair for fags and dykes; queer spirituality; queer feminism; intersex awareness and activism; non-monogamy and gender-fluid relationships; challenges to white supremacy in the queer/activist community; and much more.

One of the workshops, "The Idea of Women's Space and the Future of Camp Trans: Trans Presence at Michigan Women's Music Festival," promises to be particularly well-attended and hot tempered, as the issue has been simmering for years, with a peaceful resolution still to come, hopefully through this kind of meeting process.

Not all the events will be taken up with brainy talking heads and heated activists; there's plenty of performance and all-out fun, including the drag wonders Drag Attack at Brava Theater (2781 24th St. in SF) on Friday, October 5, and an electronic dance party and hip hop performance at SPAZ Warehouse, 705 Bancroft, Oakland, on Saturday, October 6.

Past "Queeruption" gatherings have taken place in London (1998) and New York City (1999). ▼

For more information about "Queeruption 2001," surf www.queeruption.org; phone (510) 698-2039, ext. 3181.



The men of Blow Buddies are featured in Greg Day's photo exhibition. See Friday.

Fri 21

Blow Buddies

Opening reception: "Stars of Blow Buddies! Men Encountered," an exhibition of photographs of the men of Blow Buddies by Greg Day. Including images of Cole Tucker, Frank Parker, Rod, Tony, 9R, Robeson Freire, and JWeatherman. Plus a preview of images from Kourros, Day's new book from Janssen Publishers (Berlin & South Africa, Nov. 2002). With special guest performers and the world premiere of Mike Kuchar's film *Hell on Earth*, and a showing of Rosa von Praunheim's film *Can't I be Your Bratwurst Please?* starring Jeff Stryker. Free. 5:30-8pm. 933 Harrison St. Info: www.blowbuddies.com; www.mandreams.com

The Balcutha, Hyde Street Pier

The African-American Shakespeare Company presents William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, presented aboard the *Balcutha*, a historical late-19th century sailing ship. Audience members interact with the company, creating a storm that leaves sailors shipwrecked; they find a multitude of characters, monsters, witches, and magicians. \$15 (\$10 child/senior) Noon, Sat. & Sun. Thru Oct 21 (no shows)

Oct. 6 & 7). At Hyde and Jefferson. Tix/info: 762-2071, ext. 1; www.Acteva.com/go/Shakes

Jon Sims Center

AIRspace artist-in-residence Charna Cassell presents a workshop production of "Intersections." A customer comes in to return a vibrating leather cockring, and the monologue about working at a sex toy store takes off from there. Interactions with customers cause her to examine where trauma is stored in her body. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: 554-0402; jonsimsctr.org

Aunt Charlie's Lounge

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!" Featuring the best in drag, hosted by Kristy Cruise, Grand Duchess XXVI of SF. No cover. Shows at 10pm & midnight. 133 Turk St. (at Taylor). Info: 441-2922; www.sfdrag.com

Sat 22

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oakland

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band marks the start of its 10th year of its award-winning Community Concert Series with a celebrational concert. Conducted by Artistic Director

Jadine Louie, the program features trumpet soloist Patricia Grima (Farallon Brass) performing the Arutunian "Concerto for Trumpet." The band is a resident program of the Jon Sims Center for the Arts in SF. Free. 7:30pm. 1658 Excelsior Ave., Oakland. Info: www.jonsimsctr.org/sfjgfb

Herbst War Memorial Theater

In concert: Bay Area Performing Arts presents world-music giants Shankar (double violin), Zakir Hussain (tabla), Vikku Vinayakram (ghatam), and GINGER (double violin). Each of these masters has expanded the horizons of Indian music and astounded audiences the world over. They have been nominated for a Grammy for their collaborative recording *Raga Aberi*. \$25, \$35, & \$50. 7:30pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAlister). Tix: 392-4400. Info/preferred seating: Praba Gopal, (925) 947-1908.

Pier 41, Fisherman's Wharf

Board the "S.S. Transhack" for "A 3-Hour Tour" on the Bay with a rockin' bunch of glam-trash faux gals and their friends. Captain Heklina emcees, joined by co-captain/sidekick Miss Chocolate. Featuring Pippi Lovestocking, Johnny Kat (what's up with this one? Not long ago, Kat and Hecklina were clawing each other's



"Darren," by Frank Celaya, part of "Frank Photos," an exhibition ongoing through October 8 at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

eyes out on Ricki Lake), Kennedy, Electro the Pop and Lock King, Putanesca, and all the rest. Resident Transhack DJ Pinky Ring spins danceable tunes. \$35 adv.; \$45 night of cruise. 9pm boarding; 10pm depart; 1am return. Drag time not honored. Info: www.heklina.com

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Tomales Point hike. Enjoy the herd of Tule Elk and the many birds of the coast and bay. It's a leisurely 9-mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

The Great Meadow, Fort Mason Center

AIWA presents "The 29th Annual San Francisco Blues Festival" today and tomorrow in one of the most scenic spots imaginable. Today's line-up includes Ike Turner & The Kings of Rhythm; Maria Muldaur & The Delta Disciples; and much more. \$25 adv.; \$30 door; \$40 two-day tix. Info/tix: 979-5588; ticketmaster.com; www.sfb Blues.com

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: In Concert: "An Evening with Beatrice Lillie," starring Layne Littlepage. Produced in association with Prince SF Productions. A one-woman musical entertainment about the life

of the legendary comedienne. Her world included the British Royal Family, Noel Coward, Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin, Fanny Brice, and many other celebs. She starred in many of Noel Coward's shows. The show highlights Lillie's best songs and monologues. \$20 opening night; \$18 other nights. 8pm Fri. & Sat.; 2pm. Sun. Thru Oct. 14. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix: 861-8972; www.ticketweb.com

SomArts Cultural Center

"Media Alliance 25-Year Anniversary Party," a celebratory bash featuring performances by Agitprop Theater Group, Teatro Campesino, and local acid-jazz band The Broun Fellinis, with keynote speech by New York Daily News columnist and media activist Juan Gonzalez. KALW's Nicole Sawaya hosts. \$25. 5-10pm. 934 Brannan St. Tix/info: 546-6334, ext. 370; www.media-alliance.org/events

Fort Mason Center

Blue Bear School of Music's 30th Anniversary Open House. Come celebrate the school's three decades of teaching the Bay Area how to rock. Free workshops include: "Bass and Beyond" with Stu Hamm (11am-12:15pm); "Copyright and the Internet" with Hannah Bentley (11am-1pm); "Voice Party" with Raz Kennedy (12:30-1:45pm); "How to Write a Hit Song" with Bonnie Hayes (2-3:15pm); and "Blues Jam" with Johnny Nitro (3:30-5:30pm). Free (reservations recommended). Blue Bear School of American Music, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D, 2nd Fl. (#D-255). Info: 673-3600; www.bluebearmusic.org

Marlena's

The producers of *En Drag* present their new monthly revue, *Fauxgirls!*, presenting Drag Cabaret at its best. A showcase of glamour and camp, co-hosted by the incomparable Anjelica Devarox and *En Drag* creator Victoria Secret. Featuring the talents of Reality, Donna Rae, Miss Bliss, Mona Lott, and special guests. No cover. 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: www.sfdrag.com

Sun 23

ATA Gallery

Film screening: "Third Anten-



Erica Shuch and Rachael Lincoln dance Disclosure at ODC Theater. See Thursday.



Helina and Miss Chocolate claw at one another aboard the S.S. Trannysnack. See Saturday.

na," a documentary on drag king and queen performance from the northwest and beyond, directed by Drag Attack (Reno Durham, Freddie Fagula, and Hellery Homosex) from Olympia, Washington, makers of the rock opera "The Transfused." Featuring performers Sir Real (NY), Ursula Android (WA), Micah Dirtboy (WA), and many others from around the nation. With original music by Tracy and the Plastics and 1774, two bands from Olympia. All trans, queers, and women invited. A Q&A with filmmakers follows screening. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia St.

Bazaar Cafe

Garrin Benfield and a half-dozen other recording artists present "TourBaby 2001," an exceptional line-up of singer/songwriters, including Southpaw Jones, David E. Carter, Nicola Gordon, and more. This Inner-Sunset cafe is one of the thriving centers for new folk musicians to informally share their work. 6pm. 5927 California St. Info: www.garrin.com

Mon 24

848 Community Space
"QComedy Showcase" —
Monday Night Gay Comedy
— with this week's host Nick

Leonard, plus Mary Carouba, Janis Lipton, Jane Barbone, Regina Stoops, Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$8 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info: 541-5610; www.QComedy.com

Tue 25

The Plush Room

Paula West brings her smoky vocals and impeccable jazz renderings to the Plush Room to celebrate the release of her new recording, *Come What May*. \$25 plus two-drink minimum. 8pm Tue.-Fri.; 8pm & 10pm Sat.; 5pm Sun. Thru Oct. 21. The York Hotel.

Civic Center Plaza, Oakland

The East Bay Community Foundation celebrates the grand opening of its new East Bay Center for Philanthropy with a spectacular performance by Project Bandaloop, a group of high-flying, wall-climbing, rope-hanging dancer acrobats, who will be swinging from the rooftop of the historic De Domenico building. An open house will offer the chance to tour the facility. This is the East Bay's newest venue for local philanthropy, community engagement, and nonprofit support. Free. Noon. Civic Center Plaza (14th & Broadway),

Oakland. Info: (510) 836-3223.

Wed 26

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: *And Then They Came for Me — Remembering the World of Anne Frank*, by James Still, directed by Ed Decker. A Holocaust Memorial production. This multimedia play weaves taped interviews with Holocaust survivors Edmond Silverberg and Eva Schloss, with live actors, recreating scenes from their lives as youngsters during World War II. This ensemble-driven drama is part oral history, part dramatic action, part direct address, and part remembrance. \$10 adults; \$7 youth; \$5 groups of ten or more. 10am Wed. & Fri; 2pm Sat. & Sun. Tix: 861-8972.

Thu 27

Pick Me Up Café & The Powerhouse

Opening reception/party: queer artist Roderick Cooper presents his latest exhibition, "Today: My Life from A to Z." Friends and admirers of Cooper's work will view the exhibit at cafe at 289 Folsom

St. (at 9th St.), 6:30-9:30pm, then go across the street to the Powerhouse bar to enjoy a night of high-energy cruising featuring internationally acclaimed DJ Jerry Bonham. Free. 6:30-9:30pm.

ODC Theater

Erika Shuch and Rachel Lincoln present "Disclosure," an evening of dance work sponsored by the FLIGHT program, presenting the work of up-and-coming dance artists who possess a clear vision of their work and are taking the next step toward professional development. \$13 adv.; \$15 door. 8pm. 3153 17th St. Info: 863-9834.

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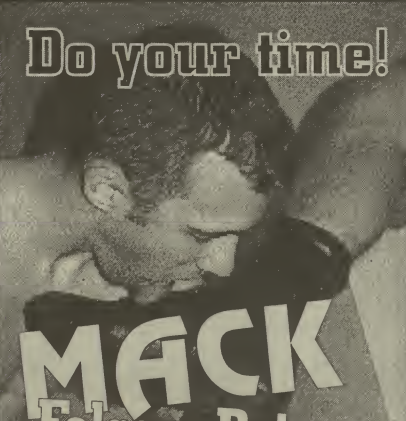
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Folsom Street Fair gets green light

by Mister Marcus

The leather nation around the world responded to the crises in our country last Tuesday, September 11, 2001 with messages of condolences and support and offers of help. Leather people volunteered at every level where their capabilities and talents could be used; impromptu memorial services and fundraisers took place, including last Friday night's "response" at Club Townsend.

New York native Audrey Joseph managed to gather major entertainment personalities, including Lily Tomlin, to her venue to perform and accept needed donations for the firemen and volunteers at the World Trade Center. In the process, some \$4,000 was raised, and necessary items were shipped to New York on Monday. Thanks to all who participated for your generosity and support.

All week I've been hearing from people around the world who have plans to be in San Francisco for the 18th Annual Folsom Street Fair, asking if the fair would take place, given the terrorist situation. The Board of Directors of SMMILE, through President Bob Goldfarb, announced that the fair would indeed take place. Everything scheduled in the official SMMILE program for Leather Pride Week is a go.

Several major events will be taking place next week, beginning with the raising of the Leather Pride Flag in Harvey Milk Plaza on Sunday, September 23, at around 1100 hours, followed by the Leather Pride Walk from the Castro to South of Market, at 1300. After the marchers arrive at the Eagle Tavern, an auction for dinner dates with six of the dozen 2002 Bare Chest Calendar men will take place, with an \$8 beer/soda bust, with food, to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Another highlight of the week will be the Uniform, Buzz Cut and Boot benefit at the Powerhouse on Wednesday, September 26 at 2100. It's a benefit for CAN (Community Action Network), an entity that provides sign language interpreters for leather events.

On Friday, September 28, the Exiles will host a Leather Women's Meet & Greet at the Brava Theatre (2780-24th St., at York), and the California B&B Corps are hosting Roll Call 2001, a \$65 banquet in an old firehouse on the waterfront. Also on that night, yours truly and SMMILE will be hosting a press party at the Powerhouse for all visiting leather people and the press. Immediately following the press party, all the contestants for the Mr. California Leatherman will be at the Meet & Greet at Daddy's.

On Saturday night, the California Leatherman Contest will be staged at Club Townsend. On Sunday, at the Folsom Street Fair, all current leather title-holders from around the world will be introduced promptly at 1300 (1 p.m.) on the 12th St. Stage (in front of the Holy Cow), so get there early to sign up. Among those expected: International Mr. Leather Stefan Mueller; the new Ms. World Leather, Annie Romano-Blas; Mr. Mid-Atlantic



Ms. World Leather Annie Romano-Blas shares the stage in Dallas, Texas with her "significant other" Jo Blas (former IMsL) after she was announced the winner of the new women's leather title.

Leather Michael Marino; and various other leather dignitaries. Bring your camera!

Lots more events are listed in the official SMMILE program, so pick a free one up at your local bar or leather-goods store.

We want to be good citizens, so let's all be friendly and helpful to our visitors from throughout the leather world. And remember to play safe. This is the world's biggest leather gathering too, so be generous with your donations. Last year, the Fair raised some \$265,000 for worthy beneficiaries — we need to repeat or exceed that amount this year. Have fun!

Drumbeats in Florida

Leatheratti and interested fans will converge on the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida the weekend of October 4-7 for the International Mr. Drummer 2001 competition. Former SF resident Vern Stewart is the head judge for this panel, which includes IMsL 2000 Jo Blas, former IML Chief Judge Thom Domkowski, IM Drummer 1989 Brian Dawson, IM Drummer Boy 1991 Kevin Stedman, The Leather Journal editor Dave Rhodes and outgoing IM Drummer Daniel Clark. I am honored to join the panel again this year and it appears that all is in readiness at Tom Kiple's Sun Coast Resort.

DC doings

In the running for the American Leatherman 2002 title in Washington, DC next April: Mr.

David Baldwin of Baltimore, Maryland who won the Mr. Double L Leather title in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware last weekend. The first runner-up was Joseph Rybka, and Mike Cutler was the second runner-up, as judged by Michael Marino, Al Santora, Mary Elizabeth Boyd and outgoing Mr. Double L Leather Mark Teesdale. Mr. Baldwin is the president of C.O.M.M.A.N.D. (Corps of Men Making A Noticeable Difference) of Baltimore. He also won the Brotherhood Award at the contest, voted by the other contestants.

In leather we trust

It's been a sad week for many of us and our friends with many unanswered questions and theories that may or may not be answered or explored.

The outpouring of donations, personal messages, acts of heroism and personal endeavors for those we care about has been overwhelming from our own country's leather men and leather women as well as leather people in Canada, Europe and yes, even Central and South America. It is encouraging and heartwarming to know that the leather nation has rallied to support fundraising and donations of blood and money for victims of the September 11 tragedy. The giant Leather Pride Flag that will be raised this Sunday at Harvey Milk Plaza attests to the love and caring that the leather communities of the world have consistently proven. Stand tall, stand proud and stand together. ▼



POLKSTRASSE

On the war front

by Sweet Lips

Any day now, I expect to see my regular stomping grounds — the popular Club Rendez-Vous on Polk Street — fill up with sailors and soldiers on leave. Wouldn't that be wonderful! Just like the old days. Across the nation, young, handsome men are bristling to go to war. Let me assure you, a bristling sailor in the sack is a load of dynamite!

I've known many a sailor and soldier in my day — in the Biblical sense, of course. Polk Street in its glory-hole days was crawling with them, and when they imbibed a few too many shots of tequila or whiskey, they tipped over with a mere brush of your hand across their nether regions.

I'm not sure how many sailors

and soldiers own the appropriate leather gear, but the savvy ones will be sure to check out the scene at the Loading Dock bar on Mission St, where the popular Stern has taken over serving drinks Thursday through Sunday nights.

The Stern always has a good story, and stiff surprises for boys in uniform.

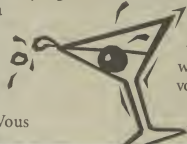
Honestly, though, everyone at Club Rendez-Vous sends their condolences and prayers to all the family and friends of those affected by this national and worldwide tragedy. Due to the horrific events in New York and Washington D.C., the club has postponed regular weekend entertainment. The Brother & Sister Blues Band will play on Fri-

day, September 28, and the Male Strip Show will resume its regular schedule the first Sunday of October. Cockatelia's "TilFriday" drag cabaret was due to take place at the club on Friday, September 21.

For updates, call the Club Line at its new number: 309-CLUB, or visit the website at www.clubrendez-vous.com.

Also, don't forget I did — thanks for reminding me, "Jewell" of the Hob Nob) that Uncle Bert's

Place will be hosting a thank you party and auction for the AIDS Art Gallery and the AIDS Food Bank on Saturday, September 22. So far this year they've raised a whopping \$70,000 in charity — nice job Mike! ▼



Cocktail Hour

Out There

◀ page 30

Chandler, and the Everett. A girl named Everett? Watch out!

Kinkade himself spoke from a podium during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Now sporting a goatee instead of the clone mustache that is featured in the portraits on his promo literature, the "Painter of Light TM" displayed an ample girth under his plaid shirt. Demonstrating the good taste that his paintings are known for, he noted that his family, the four little girls in purple dresses, a wife in a red velvet gown, and he in blue butch lumberjack, had managed to come up with a wardrobe that "matched." Perhaps that's why he didn't quite make it through his art degree at UC Berkeley. Missed the class in color theory, maybe?

The self-proclaimed "most col-



Live inside a Kinkade painting — in North Vallejo!

lected artist" in America has moved into marketing three-dimensional models of his paintings, greeting cards, mousepads, inspirational books and even La-Z-Boy furniture. But now you, too,

can live inside a Kinkade painting! In spite of the presence of some faux olde-tyme streetlamps, it was not immediately evident what would make the houses in the little Village glow at night. ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 20

Constantines MC beer/soda bust tonight at the Lone Star Saloon, from 2000 to 2300, for only \$6.

Friday, September 21:

"Stars of Blow Buddies," photographs by Greg Day, opens tonight at 933 Harrison, with a reception for the artist from 1700 until 2000 hrs. The show will hang for a month.

Exiles of SF stage a leather swap-meet at the Women's Building, an opportunity for great bargains. Doors open 1930, and selling begins at 2000. \$3 for members; \$6 for guests.

Saturday, September 22

Forum of SF annual Progressive Dinner begins at 1800 at the Powerhouse with soup and salad; at 1900, go to the Eagle for the main entrée, and at 2000, have an after-dinner drink at the Lone Star.

Sunday, September 23

The Leather Pride Flag will be raised over Harvey Milk Plaza at around 1100; then register and begin the Leather Pride Walk from Daddy's to the SF Eagle, with stops along the way. Immediately following the Walk, six of the 2002 Bare Chest Calendar men will be auctioned off for dinner dates also at the Eagle. Lenny Broberg is the auctioneer. Only \$8, with food.

Wednesday, September 26

A benefit ("Boot Camp") for Communications Access Network (CAN), who supply sign language experts for leather events, happens at the Powerhouse from 2100, hosted by Mr. SFL Houston Daventport and SF Leather Daddy's Boy Brian Steven. Intl. MS Bootblack Charlie Flake will shine your boots; there will be buzz cuts and other surprises.

Thursday, September 27

"Cigar" Party at the Sling, 926 Natoma St. for a

\$20 donation; Doors open at 2200 and party until 0300 Friday. Soft drinks, water, coffee & amenities furnished; BYO beer and adult beverages. For more info email: steve@backdoor.com.

Basket Auction at Daddy's for the California Leather Man contest winner, from 2030 to 2330. Come and meet the contestants and the judges.

The Ring presents discussion of Folsom in a Preview Mixer at Club Eros; doors open 1830 to 1900 only. No late arrivals admitted. Email: the_ring@ix.netcom.com.

Friday, September 28

California B&B Corps "SF Roll Call 2001" dinner, hosted bar, and silent auction for \$65, with tickets available at Stompers, Image Leather, Cleo's Black Cat, all to benefit Project Open Hand.

SMMILE Press Party, open to everyone, starts at 1900 at the Powerhouse Bar, with the premiere of 2002 Bare Chest Calendar men.

Meet and Greet contestants and judges for the California Leather Man 2001 contest at Daddy's, at 2100.

SF Exiles Meet and Greet for all leather women here for the Folsom Street Fair, from 1900-2100, at Brava Theatre (2789-24th St. at York) Info: www.TheExiles.org.

Saturday, September 29

Mr. Leather of ALL California contest at Club Townsend, 177 Townsend St. Who will win the right to represent our entire state at American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC next April? Be there!

Sunday, September 30

The Grand Daddy of ALL Leather Events, the 18th Annual Folsom Street Fair, happens today from 1100 to 1800, on Folsom from 7th to 12th Streets. Intro of all current titleholders at 1300 on 12th St. State (front of Holy Cow Bar).

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Blow Buddies is open Thursday to Sunday... special hours for Leather Week...call or visit Web site for details. Hot play space... bring a buddy or meat one.

Hundreds of hot guys will visit each night. Cum see why.

Leather Buddies Wednesday Sept. 26 door: 9-midnight play til late

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PARTING GLANCES

"You Know I Was Looking At You!"
I stood next to you on the F Market line Castro St. last stop! 8/11 sun afternoon. You blond hair, brown leather jacket, me a woman! Let's talk, your cute! ☎ 71562

The Cafe Sat 8/18 9:30 Or So.
I love your long hair, hadda leave to meet my friend. I gave you my card. Dat-ing's still a mystery. I gave you wrong impression. Still waiting. Call me. ☎ 71597

Longhaired Asian Man
You picking up take out @ China Court. Me blonde w/goatee and a group. We cruised each other. Would like to see what's in those jeans! Call. ☎ 71598

I'm Just Looking Forward To
Meeting a sweet south bay guy. Into: out-doo-rs, nature, plants, healthy food, cur-rent movies. Who is reasonably attractive & stylish. W/LA. Me over 40, Asian-Eu-ro-pean, attractive decent & contemporary. ☎ 71606

Highlands Hot Tub 9/5
I'm Kirk, you from City. We discussed the obvious guy. I enjoyed your company. Dinner? ☎ 71637

Looking For Mr. Good-Dick!
Average GWM professional 50's, HIV+, smart, heart and soul, artistic, cut, smok-er, fra/p looking for professional male 50 and older, w/heart/ cut cock for oral ser-vice and ltr. ☎ 71600

Big Black Truck On Castro St.
8/28/01 you: cute guy with friend. Me: guy with friends on rainbow steps. You smiled at me. Left note on your truck. In-terested in meeting? ☎ 71618

It Only Took A Dollar
Sparky's Diner- you, long sexy dreams. Me, buzz cut lots of ink. 7 o'clock happy hour you sent over \$1 beer. We exchanged numbers- I lost yours. Call me. ☎ 71596

Amazonian, Your Strong Silent
Wake washed over me like deep ecstasy; your long legs, perfect posture, busty swimmers torso. Play be the one! Help edit my fantasies of ballroom dancing through life with you. ☎ 71602

Seek 20's Hunk For Fun
52 year old dark haired goodlooking Latin male looking for you; straight, bi plus, to be nice to. I respect your limits. ☎ 71603

Submissive Boy ISO Msl Daddy
GWM, 40, very boyish looking, will wor-ship, please & submit to very muscular daddy. Boy is 5'10", 150lbs and works out. Daddy should be 30-50 and built. ☎ 71604

Looking For BM
E. Bay Italian, 5'10", 210lbs, 55, poz. Hobbies: movies, music, dining, travel. Sexually: Am mainly bottom, anything from vanilla, to nasty, to role playing. ☎ 71605

Tony & Joe
From Portland. Can I make reservations down here for Folsom Street Street Fair? I met you here on July 28 and want to continue at Loading Dock. Call- ☎ 71617

Built For Sex
You: Broad-shoulders, black hair, green tank, seen Sat. morning at Chat Cafe. Me: baseball cap, red hair, on laptop, kept glancing at you. I want to lick you! ☎ 71619

Spam - The Meat Product
Bart, Sunday 9/2. You noticed my hat and my magazine. I noticed your smile. We talked from Embarcadero to Powell- not long enough? Let's talk some more. Maybe over brunch? ☎ 71636

Poz Loner Seeks Same
Dark, smooth, muscular, masculine, Black guy, bookish techie, quiet, doesn't socialize. 5'10", 180, 43, 31" waist, 44" chest, nice body. In bed: non-verbal, affectionate, seeking muscular, masculine contact. ☎ 71599

Sat July 11:15pm Van Ness & Hayes
You: cute, well mannered young man small tat2, I-arm, paused, said "good af-ternoon, Sir". Me: s&p dad-type, tan shirt, blue pants, caught off-guard, speechless, would like to meet you. ☎ 71581

Partner/ Romance
GWM(N/S/ND), 43-51"-105#, HIV+, goatee, smooth, frisky. You: hairy, good-hearted bottom. Who enjoys concerts, Muir Woods, skiing, theater, cuddling, foreign films, animals, NPR. ☎ 71601

Elevator 45 Castro St. 4th Floor
Thursday 8/23 11:30am, me leaving Doc's waiting for elevator, you coming out elevator to Wellspring suite 423. I smiled, you smiled back. Wish we talked then, let's talk now! ☎ 71638

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

HIV+ GLM Seeking HIV+ GWM
41yo 5'10", 155 attractive healthy in shape funny romantic easy going top/ver-satile. Movies dancing, playing tennis, you similar 35-45 bottom/versatile proportion-ate, no drugs, smoke, alcohol. ☎ 71569

Any Tall Guys Outthere?
Looking to date? I am young looking 43 yr. old, GWM living in SF and tall guys make my day. You be 5'10" and up GWM into fun & romance. ☎ 71570

Yogi Seeks Boo Boo
GWM, 5'11", 240#, smarter than the av-erage bear. Seeks cub to share hiberna-tion and picnic baskets. ☎ 71571

Nylon/Spandex Lover Wanted
GWM relocating to S.F. seeks friends. Am an avid movie goer, love ballet & dance and the sensuality of nylon tights, panty hose, kissing, touch & the outdoors. ☎ 71583

Seeking Senior 70 Or Older
Masculine WM like long pussy eater seeks senior mentor to train me to become your on-call cock sucker to serve you at your command. ☎ 71584

Masculine Maui Muscle Man
GWM seeks a husky lover, slave or boy 25-42, I'm 49 (looks younger), 5'9", 165 HIV- and hung br hair/eyes. Trustworthy and sincere. Looking to meet on Maui or in SF. ☎ 71585

Looking For A Friend
Shy GWM, 58, 5'10", 165# in San Fran-cisco looking for a companion in the city to do things with. Enjoy movies, hiking, classical music, dining out and your inter-ests. ☎ 71586

Male Mistress Wanted
For sexy long term friendship and sweet times together. You over 45, under 5'8". Me, GWM early fifties 5'4", 125lbs. High energy with a good sense of humor. ☎ 71587

Great Catch Asian For GWM
Very attractive GWM 30 slim, easygoing, friendly, boy next door type, not into the scene seeks similar masculine, goodlook-ing GWM/GLM 40 or under for dating, poss. LTR. ☎ 71588

Lonely Handsome 38yrs Seeking
Life partner. 6 feet 180lbs in great shape. Me: fun, caring, healthy, sexy, good catch. Looking to settle down in ltr. Prefer beefy, furry, facial hair, sweet and caring guy. ☎ 71620

Sonoma/ Marin
Petaluma writer re-entering dating world after 19years. Libido intact. No emotional baggage. HIV+. Looking for someone over 50, N/S, who likes beagles. ☎ 71621

SF GWM 28 6'3" 200 Blond, Green
Smooth, masc, top. Looking for Russian or Ukrainian boys under 30yo for possibl-ity or whatever. ☎ 71622

Masculine Friendly 38yrs. Latin
5'7", 157#, athletic body versatile hon-est, easy going. You: versatile Asian, White, under 5'10", 40 yrs old young looking, versatile. Enthusiastic slim N/D, N/S, no bar scenes. Let's meet and see what happens. ☎ 71623

Kitchen Apron Seeks Tool Belt
Masculine, 6'2", 250, dimples, handsome, East Bay man seeks call the shots kind of man, HIV- for fun romantic times, I'll cook and you drive, I'm all American. ☎ 71624

Baker ISO Hot Buns
Which are sweet, spicy & sensual of a GWM, GHM, HIV- 36-50 for good times, dining out, movies, theatre & massage. Me: GWM 43, 5'9", S & P/blue. ☎ 71625

Best Buds
Hot, masculine, muscular Italian top look-ing for a masculine inshape buddy to "hang" with. Drink, travel, cruise, or maybe "get-off" with. Race, age, looks, are not important. ☎ 71639

Redhead--
GWM 40, 5'10", 170, Santa Rosa native, ex-nay. Enjoys talk radio, exercise & the outdoors. Seeks female. ☎ 71572

Rugged Guy
Masculine, athletic, dominant, cool, witty, smooth, Asian, 54, 5'8", 155 seeking similar clean-shaven, lean/muscular WM into workouts, running, sports, outdoors, hiking, films, ethnic foods, travel and the arts. ☎ 71640

HIV+ GLM Seeking HIV+ GWM
41yo 5'10", 155 honest healthy in shape attractive romantic easy going top/ ver-satile. Movies dancing, playing tennis. You similar 35-45 bottom/vers proportionate no drugs, smoke, alcohol. ☎ 71641

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Expert Suckers Seem Scarce...
But if you have that talent, can come to Oakland, have no beard or goatee, this hung Black daddy will massage your throat well. No voicemail or papers #'s please. ☎ 71573

You'll Be Back I Got The Knack
Poz GWM bottom, 52, 5'10", 155# will give you a hot bj and a talented ass. You be 40-60, poz, have facial hair, enjoy herb and aroma. ☎ 71574

ISO Parkable Cuties And/Or Sluts
Me: solid lean muscular, awesome big meat, older. You: in-shape with beaut butt & insatiable hot box. Scene: Door un-locked, you in bedon hands knees, blind-folded & ready for prolonged mounting. No romance but ongoing boinking a possi-bility! ☎ 71575

Hung Bi Toned Dark Studs Only
Bi novice White guy 5'8" tall, 170lbs 32" waist, 7"45" cut, shaved balls and ass squeaky clean, totally talented and tasty. 38yr. ☎ 71611

Piss Top Needs Guzzler
I'm 40, 5'8, blond, 6'3, 170 # hairy, ga-tee, healthy, HIV+, top; ISO W/S btm, healthy, recycled beer drinker straight from the source; no hard drugs please. Downtown SF. Dentures A+. ☎ 71576

Strip For Daddy And Bend Over
E. Bay GWM, daddy, ISO son, 25-35, Daddy, 52, likes to spank and kiss your bare bottom. You know you need it! Spread 'em. ☎ 71577

Sit On Your Dick, Sir?
I'm 6'4", 190lbs, 9" cock ISO hot tops to ram my pretty ass long and hard. Versa-tile, safe, clean, HIVneg. ☎ 71589

New!! Leather Bear Bottom
Late 40's 5'9", furry bear, 185#, wide range of bottom leather activity. Versatile FF (top/bottom). Want to learn and expe-rience more. ☎ 71590

My Face Needs Hot Cum Bath
Masculine WM seeks senior WM with small group of senior friends to put to-gether circle jerk using my face for target practice. The more the better. ☎ 71591

Sonoma Co. Oral Bottom
Handsome masculine cockucker needs hung stud to service to completion on reg-ular basis. Especially like uncut, big hang-ers. You are HIV-. ☎ 71592

Cute, 36, Slim, Smooth & Horny
5'7", 142 great shape, looking for a nice guy, between 25-35. Good shape and sim-ple, for only love, love. ☎ 71593

Spread Your Cheeks
Seeking Latino or Asian men too service. No recip. S.F. GWM bear fun and friend-ly. 20-40yrs. ☎ 71594

Oral Sex Buddy
Gay Asian 48, 5'8", 149lbs smooth ath-letic body looking for GWM 40-60 HIV- for regular oral sessions. Your place in San Francisco. ☎ 71607

Shut Up And Ride
WM 36 5'10" 200lb blonde/blue muscu-lar guy wants goodlooking men to screw or screw me. Call anytime. ☎ 71608

FF Butts
BM 5'9", 180, 39, I enjoy playing with an ass that takes fists, fingers, toys, your place anytime long sessions welcome. ☎ 71609

Big Nippled Oral Bottom
Trim & twisted 62/shaved head seeks GWM 25-55 for daytime play and tit tor-ture; no smokers or cologne. ☎ 71610

Seeking Passionate Daytime Fun
GWM, 45, 145lb seeking trim Asian or Latino, 20-45 for passionate morning or afternoon encounters. Must love to kiss, touch, cuddle & stroke. Your place or mine! ☎ 71612

Seeking Horny Senior Citizen
If you like a hard dick in your hands this masculine WM loves slow sensual pro-longed climax delayed jack-off sessions. Oral or regularly. ☎ 71613

Oral Service
Masculine White man 5'10", 170#, 7"wc, large balls, HIV negative, dd, healthy, need regular service. ☎ 71626

Cute Boy Toy For GBM or GAM, 25-45
Me: 29, GWM, 6', 180#, brng, fit, smooth, bottom, great kisser. You: like to get sucked, rimmed, to fuck and to cum a lot. ☎ 71627

GWM 28, HIV+, 5'8s GM, HIV+,
Top for reg. hot sex, poss. friend. Discreet encounters. Days/eves. ☎ 71628

Big Men
HIV-, 6', 165lbs dk hr. ISO affectionate chubby men who enjoy lots of kissing, cud-dling, & sensual oral pleasure. Big eat-ers, gainers, beer drinkers welcome. Smoking ok but not into drugs, gay scene, attitude. ☎ 71629

Horny Blk Bottom
Velvet tight ass: 6', 175lbs, 8.5", smooth swimmers build, chocolate complexion. Seeking hung bigger tops for long pp. Height, weight proportionate. ☎ 71630

LESBIAN

Attention Butch Lesbian Cops
So. Ca. GWF 42 ISO above for friends pen/email pals. I'm a civilian who respects a woman who wears a badge. Be sincere, no games or bi's please. ☎ 71631

ISO Bi Curious
I'm looking for another man that is bi or curious. You are 18-28 swimmers built versatile. I'm curious and always horny. ☎ 71642

Black Male Seeks Hot Sex
35yr old male looking for other males for hot J/O and blow jobs. Must be 25-35 and HIV-. I give great head. Please reply soon. Thanx. ☎ 71643

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy
GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7" uncult, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance & fun. Must be outgo-ing and affectionate. ☎ 71644

Teacher Needed
For bi curious WM be w/a smooth to lite hairy 20's to 40's who gives oral anal lessons clean shaven. Keep me after school to practice oral service anal lessons. ☎ 71645

J/O-Oral Buddy In The Area
Jones-Franklin/Clay-Sutter & Vicinity- GWM 51, 5'10", 163#, HIVneg, nice guy- why do it alone? Let's share mutual excitement & pleasure- your place. ☎ 71646

Are You A Berkeley Student?
Free room near campus in exchange for affection and safe erotic pleasures. Me: handsome, fit, easygoing professional GWM, 43, 6'0", 170, HIV-. You: hand-some, under 30 HIV-, trim affectionate boy. ☎ 71652

BAR TALK

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Seeking Adventure ☐
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Fetishes ☐
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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the fol-lowing week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clear-ly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Blow Buddy Sought

Slim W male 54yrs HIV neg hairy uncult hung seeks W male 50yrs and over HIV- for mutual cock sucking and ball licking ++ for big balls. ☎ 71647

GWM Or GLM Bottom Wanted

By sexy, hot, smart & cute GWM top 35, 5'6", 155# great shape. Like to get rimmed, f-k, be slim or beefy, under 45 7" or larger. No fats. ☎ 71648

Hot Phone For Effeminate Guys

You: effeminate gay submissive into phonesex. Me: bi very masculine dominant. Into using effeminate gay t get me off on phone when she's gone. I call you SF only. ☎ 71651

Your Personal Exhibitionist

I'm always horny adventure & flashing myself for you. You are 18-28 swimmers built hung I'm the GWM to make you happy. ☎ 71650

Inventive Top ISO Other

Tops-2 tops adds new dimen to sex play. Be 35-55, h/w prop. Muscles & hairy A+ ans ad to hear recorded detail. ☎ 71653

Handsome Latino 48 HIV- Seeks

Fuckbuddy. Into GWMs. Am college educated, physically fit. Pts no overweights. Will answer all calls. ☎ 71654

Smooth And Slender Wanted!!

Bi-sexual 6'1", 200lb. W/M is seeking a well hung smooth and slender gay male for regular get-togethers. You are the top, I am the bottom!! ☎ 71655

ISO Young & Horny

You are young hung, always horny. 18-28. Swimmers built Latino's a plus or mixed. I'm GWM & always horny. ☎ 71656

College Grad 48yo Handsome

And fit Latino wants fit GWM fuckbuddy for hot oral sex thin a plus. ☎ 71649

FETISHES**Rough Butt Spanking 4 Bad Boys**

With hand paddle & strap. Limits restricted expanded. Curious, str8, welcome. I have private place, toys. Am 36, HIV- clean-cut. All calls returned. Fantasies? ☎ 71578

"Fuck Me!"

Very masculine GWM, 42, 6', 175, trim and hairy loves being a bottom. I also give great head and making you cream is what I want. I'm looking for regular fuckbuds or even once is okay. Age, ethnicity and size is not important, if you're a top. ☎ 71635

I Need Hot Facial Cum Bath

Masculine mature WM seeking J/O partner any age to jerk off your load on my face once or regularly. Will consider small group circle jerk. ☎ 71579

Seriously Into Mutual Nipple Play?

Then let's milk each other's superior fuckers and nearly faint with unbearable pleasure as we shoot huge, ball breaking loads of thick man juice. Sorry, no heavy men. ☎ 71595

Rubber PVC Leather Fetish Action

GWM, 46, 5'6", 135, blond, attractive, seeks another male into rubber, plastic, & leather. Have gear & toys. You must too! Can travel- Bay Area. ☎ 71616

Erotic Rope Bondage

Expert bondage top. GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, gl, athletic, HIV-, seeks masc., in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging, erotic bondage. Gags, toys, light S/M. Discreet, trustworthy. ☎ SF/East Bay. ☎ 71614

Asshole Pleasure Machine Btm

Me under your Joy Rider or similar. Bottom feed-er's lips, tongue and big mouth your tireless rim machine. Minutes to hours. Special orders, kinks. Your place. All ages. Do it! ☎ 71615

Seeking Sonoma Co. Show-offs

Mature guy loves being teased by slender guys 18-30 who love to flaunt it. Exhibitionist? Pose for photos? Videotape? Do it in semi-public places? Reward for unique talent. ☎ 71632

Dale Earnhard Look-A-Like?

Endowed Black butt banger wants you on your back, legs up, lubed and ready for a long pounding. Must be experienced, easy to reach. ☎ 71633

Drag-Queen-Interlude- Ravish--

Me- bi- HM, 53, ISO drag-queens for daytime run, J/O, French-Greek, 69, pluses. Redheads, cigar-smokers, clean-sober, discreet. ☎ 71658

Daytime Ass-Hole Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71634

Master Seeks Slave

Handsome, 6'4", 200lb, blue-eyed, brown haired military type seeks nice little slave boy who can take orders meet my every need and remember his place. Call me! ☎ 71657

COUPLES**ISO Young Adventures**

I love group sex with Latino, Blacks, or mix a plus. You are 18-28 swimmers build hung horny. Me GWM always horny for you. ☎ 71659

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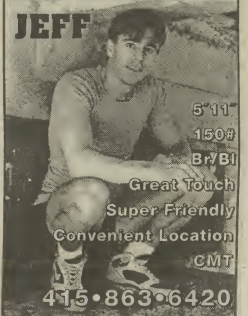
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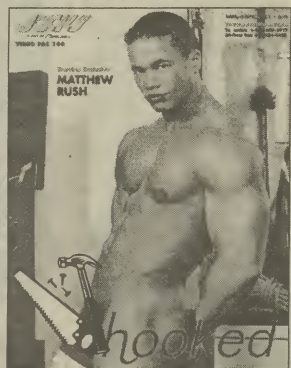
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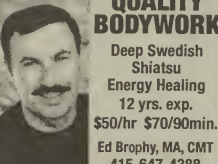
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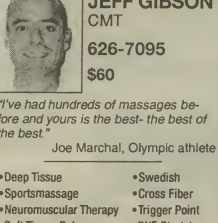
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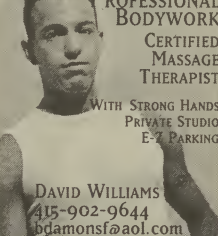
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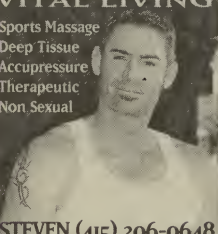
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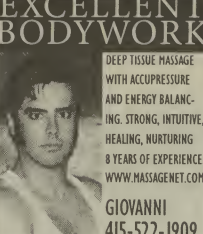


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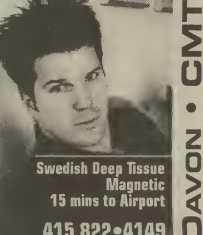
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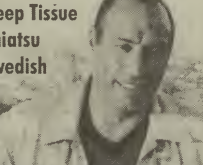


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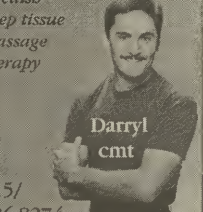


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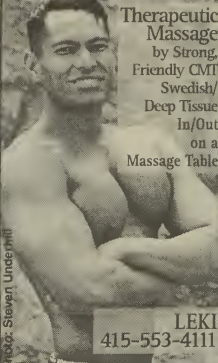


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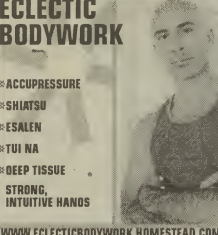
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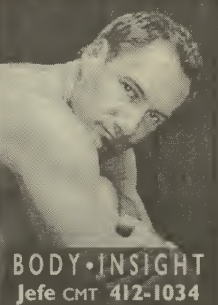
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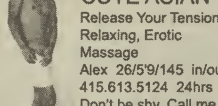
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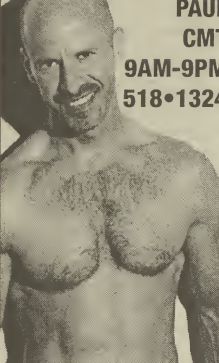
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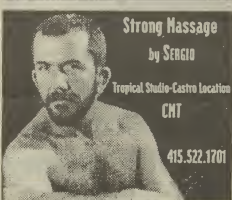
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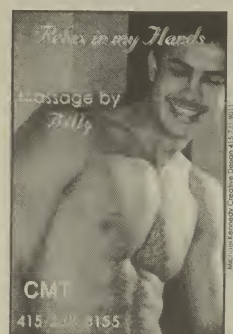
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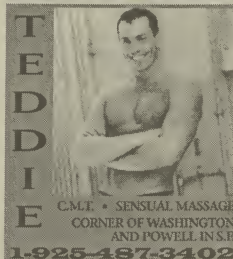
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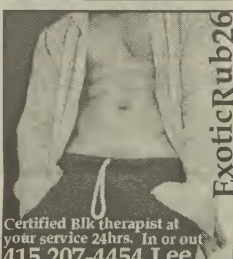
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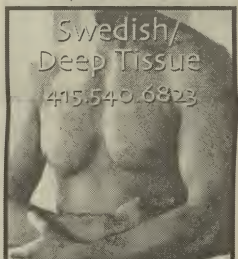
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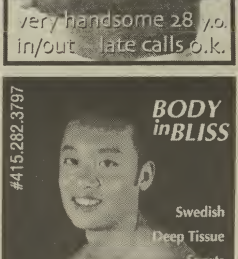
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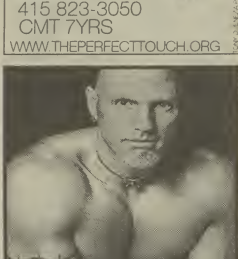
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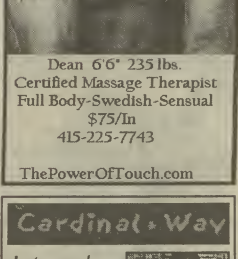
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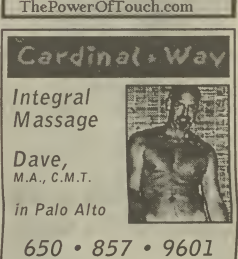
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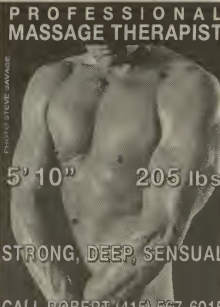
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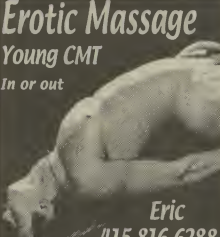
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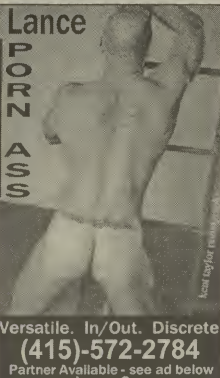
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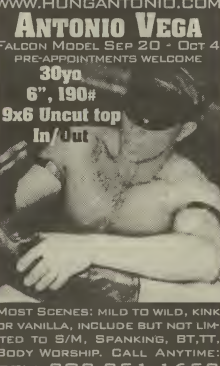
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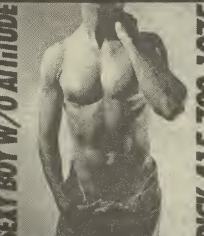
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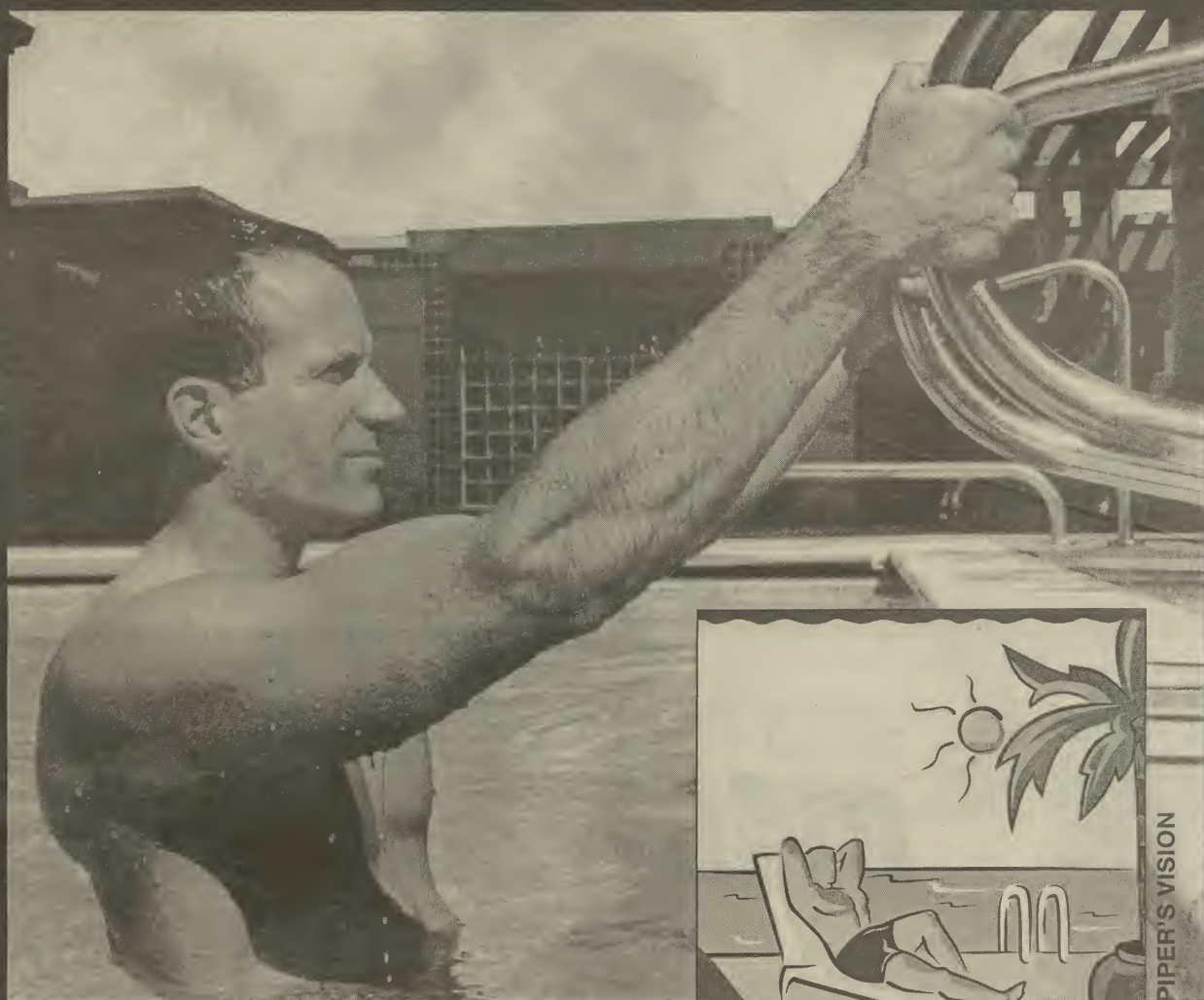
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